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J. J. Lamberts

THE FAMILY NAME KNICKERBOCKER is a well-known synonym for institutions of Dutch origin or ancestry, particularly those associated with the early Dutch colony in what is now New York. This is wholly the result of Washington Irving's *Knickerbocker History of New York*, as he acknowledges in an "apology" written in 1848: "When I find [this book's] very name become a 'household word' and used to give the home stamp to everything recommended for popular acceptance, such as Knickerbocker societies, Knickerbocker insurance companies . . . — and when I find New Yorkers of Dutch descent priding themselves on being 'genuine Knickerbockers,' — I please myself with the persuasion that I have struck the right chord."

Irving himself was acquainted with members of the Knickerbocker family. Moreover, he identified the fictional Diedrich Knickerbocker as a relative of the flesh and blood Knickerbockers. Thus his use of the name to typify anything Dutch was intended as an elaborate compliment. He even included in the *History* a mock etymology of the name: "Lastly came the Knickerbockers, of the great town of Schaghtikoke, where the folk lay stones on their houses in windy weather, lest they should be blown away. These derive their name, as some say, from *Knicker*, to shake, and *Beker*, a goblet, indicating thereby that they were sturdy toss-pots of yore; but, in truth, it was derived from *Knicker*, to nod, and *Boeken*, books; plainly meaning that they were great nodders or dozers over books."

The etymology *knikker*, "a clay marble," and *bakker*, "a baker," thus "a baker of clay marbles," is not here mentioned by Irving, nor apparently anywhere in his writings. Yet it seems incredible that a person who could contrive such fanciful explanations as those given above should not have hit upon the far more obvious one, for Irving was familiar with Dutch. One gets the impression that



everyone concerned was aware of the "marble-baker" etymology, but that Irving was indulging in a sophisticated kind of punning. Indeed, in his *Annals of Albany* (1852) [Vol. 3], Joel Munsell translates a number of family names and comments as follows on Knickerbocker:

*Knikkerbakker*, marble baker; now almost universally written Knickerbocker, after the usage of Washington Irving; pronounced as if written K'n-nik-ker-bok-ker perhaps to distinguish it from *nikker*, a fiend or devil.

George Castor Martin in *The Knickerbacker or Knickerbocker Family* (1912) asserts that the first of this family of whom there is record was Jan or John VanBeighen Knickerbacker, third son of Godfrey, Count of Gunbaghen, who was a Captain in the navy of Holland. He is reputed to have seen service in Brazil and afterward in the Dutch army. He was married in Holland and later emigrated to America. Whether he actually ever used the name Knickerbacker appears uncertain. He did have a son, Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker, who was an officer in the navy of Holland and who took part in the Battle of Soleby in 1672. Martin states that he was wounded in the knee in the engagement and retired from the service, following his father to America.

We have here a satisfactory Dutch etymology for what is unquestionably a Dutch name, and we have at least one historical person to whom it belonged. This etymology, however, is far from acceptable to some of the persons who have borne the name. In fact, a stout negative report was entered some forty years ago by Kathlyne Knickerbacker Viele in her *Sketches of the Allied Families Knickerbacker Viele*.

Here is her statement in its entirety:

The name of Knickerbacker is unique. It seems safe to assert that there has never been but one family of that name. It is evident from the testimony that it is constructed out of a combination of a family name and an individual peculiarity. There has never before been offered a rational solution of its meaning.

For several years four others besides myself--all of whom have had experience in the unraveling of the origin of Dutch names--have given to this matter a good deal of thought and one theory after another has been run down without arriving at any satisfactory decision. It has been adventured that the name represented part of an old Holland family name, but all the combinations seemed far fetched; that the ancestor's signature bore traces of lacking a syllable as would be the case perhaps in the writing of an illiterate man; but the syllable omitted could not be determined. It has been thought that the name denoted the occupation of the possessor and the Dutch dictionary has been searched for words whose combination



would indicate what that was. There seems to be absolutely nothing to make *knikkel* — marbles and *backer* — baker — a baker of marbles, the etymology of the name. The name was never authoritatively written with "el" for the second syllable. This suggestion is given in the third volume of Munsell's Annals, p. 59; but a note to the preface of the seventh volume says that Knickerbacker "was not the original name." [Actually the quotation given is out of context. Munsell had no intention of withdrawing or even qualifying his earlier statement]. This statement of Munsell as to probable meaning has been widely copied.

It is probable that the name is to be read just as the ancestor wrote it at the foot of the legal document of 1682. The Dutch always signed their family names to legal documents. The late Walter Kenneth Griffin, an excellent genealogist, has well said, "Dutch names may be puzzling but they are logical and consistent."

Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker, as he came to be called, was first most frequently spoken of as "Hermen Jansen van Bommel." This was the name of the place in Holland that he hailed from. But to his contract with Anthony van Schaick in 1682 he signs himself "Hermen Jansen van Wyekyckback(e)." Why not take this just as he has written it and give it at least a logical interpretation?

Hermen Jansen came from Bommel, in North Brabant, near which there was then and had been for several centuries a branch of the ancient family of Van Wye in which the names of Herman and Johannes were very common. As far back as the fourteenth century there was a Herman VanWye who was governor of the Neder-Betuwe, where the fortified town of Bommel was situated.

The family tradition says that Hermen Jansen was in the Dutch navy, and although this has not been proven, there is nothing to prevent its having been true. He is said to have been with DeRuyter's fleet in the Battle of Soleby, fought June 7, 1672, and to have been there wounded. I doubt if an unwritten tradition would have done more than have handed down the facts of his fighting and of his wound. Therefore when I found that in the next year (1673) there had been a still more fierce and sanguinary battle fought by the same fleet under the same commanders at a place called Kijk, I could not but note its similarity to the "Kyc" in the ancestor's name, especially when "back" (cheek) gave such an easy reading as — Hermen Jansen vanWye-Kijk-back — Kijk cheek — or cheek marked at Kijk!

In the effort to read the name, the "Wye" which might easily be mistaken for "Nye" (it has been read in both ways by different clerks), was so interpreted and the name became Niekickbacker — Niekerbacker, from which the transition was easy to the final form of Knickerbacker.

The clerk in the first document, that of 1682, writes the name Kinne-ker-backer. Kinneback is jawbone — kinnekyckbacker — man with the Kijk-jawbone, falls into line as a suggestion, but as to form it is more far-fetched.

There is no such name as Knickerbacker in Holland and since we have the signature of the ancestor to go by we must bear in mind that he does not call himself Knickerbacker, but "vanWyekyckback(e)."

It is from this signature that the origin of the name and the man must be traced.

The above is scarcely a model in onomastics. To refute one by one its logical fallacies, however, would constitute needless labor.



Especially obvious is the jump from one battle in which this ancestor is conjectured to have taken part to another battle a year later, and from a rumored wound (disregarding Martin's assertion that he was struck in the knee) to being able to locate it precisely on the person. Even more fanciful, if such a thing is possible, is the assumption that the Dutch ever indulged in the practice of naming people for injuries they sustained at various geographical locations in specific anatomical members. The speaker of American English would find wholly ridiculous such analogical inventions as Bulge-arm, New Guinea-shin, or Korea-shoulder.

To argue that because this person's name was Hermen, he must have been a VanWye simply because the VanWyes were often called Hermen or Johannes does not strike one as a singularly fortunate assertion either. Nearly every Dutch family with a score or more of males normally has one or more persons named Hermen or Johannes.

But since the writer is so sure that Knickerbocker must have been derived from Wyekycbacke, her procedure deserves some attention. There are, as she admits, a number of early municipal and church records in which Hermen Jansen's name turns up. In all there are no fewer than eighteen different combinations of names. It is true, the Wyekycbacke spelling is the only one in Hermen Jansen's handwriting, all the others being in the writing of various clerks. Nevertheless, there can be no fundamental objection to using a spelling which appeared some fifteen years after the date of the signature: Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker Van Wye. VanWye, after all, is not to be regarded as merely part of Wyekyckbacke, but as a completely independent name. Those familiar with Dutch naming practices (even as late as the early part of the nineteenth century in some parts of the northern provinces) will recognize a familiar pattern. It was quite indifferent whether one was VanWye Knickerbacker or Knickerbacker Van-Wye. The only stable element in the name was the Hermen. For the rest he was Jansen or VanBommel, or both, or Jansen or Knickerbacker, or both.

It is extremely doubtful that the Kycbacke of the signature has any connection with a place Kijk or with a cheek or jawbone. Here is an illiterate, or at best a semi-literate man trying to write a long and unwieldy name in a community generally unconcerned about



any kind of consistency in writing or recording names. Such a spelling is about what one would anticipate. It certainly seems highly improbable that Wyekyckbacke should eventually become Knickerbocker because some clerk could not distinguish a W from an N. Names are passed on by word of mouth rather than by signatures on obscure documents.

The writer's abrupt dismissal of the obvious etymology and her elaborate reaching for another suggests that the first one represents something distasteful. So it may well be, depending on how one looks at it. The "marble-baker" etymology is tossed out on two counts: first, it could not have been *knikkel* and *bakker*, because the "el" is insufficiently authenticated. Actually nobody ever suggested that it was *knikkel* at all, but *knikker*. And for that matter the spelling *Knikkelbakker* is given two times in the records. Secondly, she insists. "marble-baker" cannot have been an occupational term. The point is that it does not have to be. Very probably there never was an ancestor of the Knickerbocker family who made a living rolling Dutch clay into little balls. If Hermen Jansen was, as evidence indicates, a soldier of fortune, why could not "marble baker" have been a good natured nickname conferred on him by his companions. Surnames which were originally nicknames are extremely common among the Dutch. If taken literally they often border on the grotesque, as witness Notekraker, "nut-cracker"; Bontekoe, "spotted cow"; Botbijl "dull ax"; Aardappel, "potato"; not to mention the names of most wild and domesticated animals.

There can be no doubt that Knickerbocker is derived, as Munsell stated, from *knikker-bakker*. What this meant to the Dutch adventurer of the seventeenth century will probably never be known, and our guesses will likely be as far wide of the mark as the twenty-third century guesses at expressions like "feather merchant," "yard bird," or "dog robber." It may simply have amused Hermen Jansen enough to have induced him eventually to adopt it as his official surname, in preference to what he perhaps regarded as the colorless VanBommel.



Mr. President  
The wine trade



SKETCHES  
OF  
ALLIED FAMILIES  
KNICKERBACKER-VIELE

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL

TO WHICH IS ADDED AN

APPENDIX

CONTAINING FAMILY DATA

BY

KATHLYNE KNICKERBACKER VIELE

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TO THE  
HONORED MEMORY  
OF  
MY TWO GRANDMOTHERS  
KATHLYNE KNICKERBACKER (VIELE)  
AND  
MARY SANDS (GRIFFIN)



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Director of the New Netherland Company and ancestor of the Viele family of New York State.



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PART FIRST

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The Knickerbackers of Schaghticke



## PART FIRST

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### I.

#### Washington Irving's "Knickerbocker Legend" and Its Relation to the Knickerbacker Family

Knickerbocker's History of New York was the work of Washington Irving's youth. He appears to have begun it in 1808 and completed it in 1809.

It is said that his initial intention was to write simply a burlesque on a pretentious guide book lately gotten up by a Dr. Samuel Mitchel. He and his brother Peter commenced this burlesque together and wrote in conjunction that part of it which relates to the history of the world prior to Dutch rule in New York. Then Peter having been called to Europe on business, Washington rearranged his ideas somewhat, cut down the first part to five chapters—he afterwards said it would have been better to have cut it down to one—continued the history—producing it as it at present stands. This was in the early summer of 1809. In April Mr. Irving was much prostrated by the death of his fiancee, Miss Hoffman, and spent the two months succeeding her decease in the retirement of the country at the home of his friend Judge Van Ness at Kinderhook. Here he diverted himself from his grief by revising and completing his History of New York and it would appear likely that during this period he visited the Knickerbackers at Schachticope and catching the old-time character of the place and people conceived the fancy of sending forth one of the Knickerbacker name to lead the procession of quaint Dutchmen already passing along the avenue of his imagination. The impression of myself and others has been that Mr. Irving's acquaintance with the Knickerbackers was the result of his friendship for "my cousin the Congressman" whom he met in Washington and who was Herman Knicker-



backer sent down there in 1809 to represent his district in the 11th Congress. But in a letter to his friend, Henry Brevoort, dated Washington, Jan. 13, 1811, he says:—"The other evening at the City Assembly I was suddenly introduced to my cousin the Congressman from Schaghticoke and we forthwith became two most loving friends." This was a good year after the publication of his Knickerbocker's History of New York and proves he found his way to a knowledge of the Knickerbackers of Schaghticoke by some other less obvious route. In his article "The Historian" in *Bracebridge Hall* he says:—"Diedrich Knickerbocker was a native of New York, a descendant from one of the ancient Dutch families which had originally settled that province and remained there after it had been taken possession of by the English in 1664. The descendants of these Dutch families still remain in villages and neighborhoods in various parts of the country, retaining with singular obstinacy the dress, manners and even language of their ancestors, and forming a very distinct and curious feature in the motley population of the state."

The principal Knickerbacker of Schaghticoke at that time was John Knickerbacker, father of the Congressman, a man of strong personality and stronger prejudices, still in his prime and living on his many acres surrounded by his many children. Whether it was as his guest that Washington Irving became familiar with the Knickerbacker environment or if his knowledge of the family came through the rather boastful communications of some family connection whom he met in Kinderhook or Albany and who rang the changes on the family importance and the fame of "my cousin the Congressman," cannot be ascertained, but the impression this long established Dutch family made on him is plain as the many illusions to it show. Even the name of Diedrich was offered suggestively to Mr. Irving in the person of Derick Knickerbacker, a young lad, son of Herman's brother William, named for his mother's father—Derick Van Veghten.

Under Mr. Irving's magic hand Derick became Diedrich and the family name of Knickerbacker received a twist to Knickerbocker, from which it has never recovered. Mr. Irving humorously mentions that "Diedrich Knickerbocker was of



very great connections, being related to the Knickerbockers of Schaghticoke and cousin german to the Congressman of that name." Another twist and "nephew" had become "cousin"!

Having thus transformed the real into the imaginary with the wand of his fancy, Mr. Irving proceeds to identify himself with the Diedrich Knickerbocker of his creation;—for it is of himself he speaks when he writes: "After a residence of some time at Schaghticoke he began to feel a strong desire to return to New York which he ever regarded with the fondest affection not merely because it was his native city but because he regarded it as the very best city in the world, etc." In the same disguise he continues: "Such are my feelings when I revisit the family mansion of the Knickerbockers and spend a lonely hour in the chamber where hang the portraits of my forefathers shrouded in dust like the forms they represent . . . with pious reverence do I gaze on the countenances of these revered burghers who have preceded me in the steady march of existence, whose sober and temperate blood now meanders through my veins flowing slower and slower in its feeble conduits until its currents shall soon be stopped forever. . . . As I pace the darkened chamber and lose myself in melancholy musings the shadowy images around me almost seem to steal once more into existence, their countenances to assume the animation of life, their eyes to pursue me with every movement." Although Mr. Irving doubtless had in his mind various such portrait-hung chambers, as a matter of fact the portraits of departed Knickerbackers did look down upon him from the walls of their former dwelling place.

One more suggestive quotation from Mr. Irving's History of New York, when the sober mood has given way to the whimsical, and he tells of the gathering of the out-lying Dutch clans when they assembled on the Bowling Green at New Amsterdam ready to help Governor Stuyvesant win a victory over the Swedes at Fort Casimer: "Lastly came the Knickerbockers of the great town of Schaghticoke where the folks lay stones upon the houses in windy weather lest they should be blown away. These derive their name as some say from KNICKER to shake and BECKER a goblet, indicating that they were sturdy tospots of yore, but in truth it was derived



from KNICKER to nod and BOEKEN books; plainly meaning that they were great nodders over books."

Referring to his friend, Hermen Knickerbacker, the Congressman, Washington Irving writes on March 5, 1811, to his friend Henry Brevoort in New York, "About the time you will receive this I am expecting 'my cousin' Knickerbocker will arrive in New York; I wish you would call at the City Hotel and look for him; he is a right honest, sound-hearted, pleasant fellow." (Life of Irving, Vol. I, p. 208.)

On July 31, 1833, Washington Irving lately returned from a protracted stay in Europe, "went up from Tarrytown to Saratoga Springs to take the waters and after a fortnight there he made an excursion to Schaghticoke and visited Hermen Knickerbocker whom he had known twenty years before when he was a Congressman." Of this visit he wrote to his brother, Peter: "I found him (Knickerbacker) with a houseful of children, living hospitably and filling various stations—a judge, a farmer, a miller, a manufacturer, a politician, etc.; he received me with open arms and I only escaped from his hospitality by promising to come another time to spend a day or two with him." (Ditto, Vol. II, p. 261.)

So thoroughly does Irving in his account of Diedrich Knickerbocker mix up the real with the fanciful that for some time after the publication of his "history" it was generally thought that the odd name of "Knickerbocker" was the offspring of his imagination. As late as 1853 when the present writer, then an infant, was brought to his nephew, the Rev. Pierre P. Irving—then Rector of Christ Church, New Brighton, Staten Island, to be baptized, the future biographer of his uncle demurred at accepting "Kathlyne Knickerbacker" as a baptismal name, saying it was a pity to give a child a fancy name!

On a recent visit to the Knickerbacker homestead at Schaghticoke I and my companions were shown an old sleigh with goose-heads on long slender necks curving down in front, set with brilliant glass eyes and with very moth-eaten cushions, and told that Washington Irving had driven in it. Some time ago I came across a tale in a little book, called the Bradshaw Memorial (p. 45) of a Mrs. J. B. Lee, once of



Schaghticoke, who remembered as a little child coming into the parlor at the Knickerbacker homestead and being very much frightened by the ticking of the tall clock in the corner. She could recall Mr. Irving, who was there, taking her up on his lap, explaining the sound to her and then teaching her how to tell time.

These homely incidents indicate the woof on which Washington Irving wove the delightful creation—Diedrich Knickerbocker.

In January, 1833, the Knickerbacker Magazine was started and its first number contained this paragraph, taken from a supposed conversation with Diedrich Knickerbocker: "He readily forgave the liberty taken with his name in consideration of *our having restored it to its ancient spelling* especially when we informed him that it was in consequence of a request officially preferred by the Burgermaster of the ancient City of Albany."

But in July the next copy comes out with the title changed to Knickerbocker and that number opens with a conversation as before with Diedrich Knickerbocker in which he says: "I wish thee to restore my name to its original spelling *as it stands in my celebrated History*; so as fortune has given immortal glory to *what some would consider a discreditable mistake* I will even take it as it came and add the 'o' to the end of time."

Charles Dudley Warner says of Diedrich Knickerbocker:—"This little man in kneebreeches and cocked hat was the germ of the whole Knickerbocker legend—a fantastic creation which in a manner took the place of history and stamped upon the metropolis of the New World the indelible Knickerbocker name and character; and even now in the city it is an undefined patent of distinction to have descent from 'an old Knickerbocker family.'"



## II.

### The First of the Knickerbackers

The Mohawk river enters the Hudson above Albany in four branches. Lying in the fork made by the union of the northernmost branch with the Hudson was a tract of arable land known in the early days of the Colony by the name of the Halve Maan.

In 1609 Hudson's Halve Maan anchored below the site of the present city of Albany, but Hudson sent a boat's crew further up to sound the river's depth. These paddled up the river to "probably some distance above Waterford," as the Halve Maan district came later to be called. (Brodhead's His. of State of New York, p. 31.)

But the tract of the Halve Maan is said to owe the distinction of bearing the name of Hudson's famous vessel to the crescent-like form of the hills on its western side rather than to the fact that it was in a sense the northerly termination of Hudson's voyage.

This tract seems to have remained in the possession of the Indians until 1664. On May 27, 1664, the New Netherland authorities granted to Pieter Pieterse Schuyler and to Goosen Gerretsen (Van Schaick) permission to purchase it from the Mohegans "in order to prevent the purchase of it by those of Connecticut." (Dutch MSS., Vol. X, p. 263.)

Eighteen years from this date, on December 11th, 1682, Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker signed a contract with Anthony Van Schaick, son of Goosen Gerretsen, deceased, "to buy and sell" some of this land "at the northern end of the Halve Maan."

At this time (1682) New Netherland had become for the second time the Province of New York. The last Dutch rule had been over for eight years. No Dutch emigrants were coming into the now English Colony. Indeed it is asserted that already in 1664 more than half the Dutch settlers had returned to their own country. How then can we account for



this belated Dutchman from Bommel of whom we find little trace in America before this date?

Family tradition says that previous to coming to America he had been in the Dutch navy, had taken part in the sea fights under De Ruyter and had been "severely wounded." It is specified that it was in the battle of Solebay, which occurred off the English coast in June, 1672, that he had been wounded—that fight where the "Hollanders fought like lions." Another engagement of this same fleet took place the following year, 1673, off the coast of Holland on the dunes at Kijk—Kijkduin (Reddings boot). This fight at Kijk was also a fierce and sanguinary naval fight between the French and English fleets and the Dutch under De Ruyter and Tromp, in which the latter were victorious. (Blok, History of the Dutch People, Vol. IV, p. 413.)

In this battle of Kijk I find the nucleus of the Knickerbacker name, as will later appear. For I believe that if there is truth in the tradition—and the dates at least make it possible—he might have been in this fight off The Hague in 1673 and have there received the wound whose scar would remain forever the honorable sign of his service to Patria!

There seems little room for doubt but that Hermen Jansen came from Bommel. He is called "Van Bommel" in the records of the City of Albany, on the Court Minutes and on the Dutch church register.

There are in the central part of the Netherlands, where Guilderland bordered in the seventeenth century on North Brabant, two towns of that name—Bommel-Zoutbommel, which was a fortified town, and Maasbommel, lying further south. Between the two there appears to have been a district of considerable extent called Bomlerswardt. It would seem that any persons living in either of these towns or in the adjacent country would call themselves "from Bommel." In 1672-3 all this part of the Netherlands had been invaded by the French under Turenne and everywhere the land was devastated. The fortified town of Bommel sustained a long siege and at length fell into the hands of the enemy. It would appear likely that Hermen Jansen had left the navy after having been wounded, and as the conditions of continued warfare prevented a return



to his native place, had been led to America as to a refuge. If this surmise is correct it was the fortunes of war that cast the first Knickerbacker upon these shores.

It was probably in the short period of little over a year when the Dutch held New York for a second time (1674) that Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker came to America. He would scarcely have come after it again became an English possession—a country against which he had lately been engaged in fighting. This would be quite possible if, as I am supposing, he had taken part in the battle off Kijk (1673) as well or in place of that of Solebay in 1672. It seems safe to place his coming to America in 1674, although we do not find him until six years later on the records. Up to 1680 all must be conjecture concerning him, but from this date his life is simply that of the early and successful settler in a new country, the patient husbandman, transforming his broad acres from an Indian hunting ground into a land of wheat and corn fields, with apple orchards surrounding a comfortable homestead and close to this plentiful housings for his good Dutch stock.

Hermen Jansen was evidently in America in 1678, for in that year, if not before, he married Lisbet Bogert. Lisbet was the daughter of Jan Louve Bogert, at that time dwelling at Harlem, just north of New Amsterdam. She has been erroneously assigned to the Van der Bogert family, but her descent is now well established. (Riker's Revised His. of Harlem, p. 448.) Jan Louve Bogert was from "the pretty village of Schoonderwaerdt," near Leerdam, in Holland. He had embarked from Amsterdam on April 16, 1663, in the ship "*Bonte Koe*," of which Captain Jan Bergen was the skipper, for New Netherland with his wife Cornelia Evertse, and their two children—aged respectively seven and four years. He had settled first at Bedford, L. I., and later went to Harlem, where he became twice a magistrate and in general an enterprising citizen. In 1706 he sold his farm in Harlem and tradition says he ended in New York City a long and useful life.

The first mention to be found of Hermen Jansen on the Albany records is when "Harme Janse van Bommell" appears as witness in a trivial lawsuit, on April 6, 1680. This concerns the weakening of the testimony of one man that he was em-



ployed by another man to go to "the falls." These must have been the Cohoes Falls on the Mohawk, on the south end of the Halve Maan, of which Hermen Jansen would have knowledge, and is therefore indirect testimony that the latter was at that date living in the Halve Maan. Strange to say the plaintiff in the case, for whom Hermen Jansen was witness, was represented by Aernout Cornelise Viele, and our "Knickerbacker-Viele" association is thus early begun. (Proceedings of the Commissioners or Magistrates, 1676-80, p. 500.)

The second item on the records at Albany which refers to Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker is in the early Deacon's account book of the Dutch Reformed Church at that place. In May, 1682, "Hermen van Bommel . . . paid for the use of the small pall," thus indicating the probable burial of a child at that time.

On December 11, 1682, he entered into a contract with Anthony Van Schaick to buy and sell land at the Halve Maan; the full text of which is here given and a fac-simile of which will be found as the frontispiece to this volume:

"Albany Co. Deeds, Vol. III, p. 1770. Appeared before me, Robert Livingston, Secretary of Albany County, Renselaerwyck and Schaenhectady, etc., Antho. Van Schaick on the one side and Harme Janse Kinnekerbacker on the other, who declared that they had contracted and agreed with each other in all love and friendship as follows, viz.; Antho. Van Schayk acknowledges that he has sold and Harme Janse kinneker Backer, that he has bought from him a piece of farmland situate at the north or uppermost end of the Half Moon, over against the Skaekkookse path bounded by a small kill on the south side and by a small kill on the north side, also to the East the river and to the West the high woods being two hundred (feet) above the height of the woods, to enclose within fence and further to have free outlet for his cattle like those who live in the Half Moon. For this piece of farmland and rights aforesaid Harme Janse kinnekerbacker promises to pay to Antho. Van Shayk the



quantity of thirty good deliverable beavers and to pay this in three successive years, each year a lawful third part viz. ten beavers in January 1683/4 and ten beavers in the year 1684/5 and the last ten beavers in January 1685/6. With the last payment the seller promises to deliver to the purchaser proper transport of the aforesaid land free and unincumbered save the Lord's Right. Herewith the parties contracting acknowledge they are satisfied pledging for the fulfilment thereof their persons and property movable and unmovable present and future nothing excepted submitting the same to the compulsion of all lords, courts, laws and judges. Done in Albany in the presence of Gabriel Thomson and Mr Abraham Van Tricht. as witnesses hereunto invited, on the 11th of December 1682.

Anthony Van Schaick

Hermen Jansen van Wyekycback(e).

Gabriell Tomosen

Aram Van Tricht, Surgeon

In my Present

Ro. Livingston, Secr.

This document is especially valuable for its date and for its signature; it is the only signature of the ancestor which we possess.

On the earliest list of members of the Dutch church in Albany (1683) appear the names of "Harmen Jansz Knickerbacker and Lysbet Harmensz." In this same year (1683) Hermen Jansen joins with Schuyler and two others in a petition for a road to be opened across the land of his neighbor Mees Hogeboom. On June, 1684, Knickerbacker appears in a suit with this neighbor. Concerning this suit Mr. A. J. F. van Laer, Archivist of the N. Y. State Library, writes: "That of May 6, 1684, is an action for debt of Herman Jansen Knickerbacker, pltff, vs. Mews Hogeboom deft. (Court Minutes 1680-85, p. 535.) The same day Mees Hogeboom brought an action against Hermen Jansen Kinnekerbacker for the recovery of a heifer let out to pasture in Knickerbacker's field.



Knickerbacker claimed that the heifer got into a bog and was killed by wolves, hence that he was not responsible. June 3, 1684, a jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. In the entry of that trial Knickerbacker is called Harmen Jansen Van Bommel." (This is the item that Dr. Van Alstyne refers to on the first page of his Knickerbacker genealogy and which he has evidently mistaken for a real estate transaction.)

In September, 1689, Hermen Jansen, whose land ran up towards Saratoga Lake and who may have been out hunting beavers somewhat beyond his own domain, reported to the Albany authorities as follows: "Harme Janse van Bommel brings news yt our Indians have taken 5 Praying Canada Indians upon ye Lake, who were bound later to do mischieffe and that severall french were seen upon ye Lake. Upon which Capt Wendel and six men were ordered to go to Sarachtoge to examine sd 5 Indians and make inquiry of affairs there." (Annals of Albany, Vol. II, pp. 112, 113.)

On the 20th of February, 1696-7, Knickerbacker made a further purchase of land at Halve Maan from the same Anthony Van Schaick and in this deed it will be noted that he is called throughout "Harme Jansz Knickerbacker Van Wye." This deed, of which only a copy is preserved in the Secretary of State's Office at Albany, reads as follows:—

"Albany County Deeds, Vol. IV, p. 94. This Indenture made ye Six and Twentieth day of Feb. in ye year of our Lord one Thousand Six hundred and ninety six and seven in the ninth year of ye Reign of our now souveraign Lord William ye Third over England etc king. Between Anthony Van Shaik of ye County of Albany Yeoman, of ye one part and Harme Janse Knickerbacker Van Wye, also of ye County of Albany yeoman of ye other part. WITNESSETH that ye sd Anthony Van Shaik for diverse good causes and lawful Considerations him, ye sd Anthony Van Shaik especially moveing and for ye further Consideration of Eighteen Pounds Currant money of this province to him in hand paid by ye sd Harme Janse Knickerbacker Van Wye and before ye Ensealing and delivery



hereof, ye Receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge and him therewith fully satisfyed & Contented hath graunted, Bargained and Sold, aliened, Enfeoffed and Confirmed; and by these presents doth graunt, Bargain and sell, alien, Enfeofe and Confirm unto ye sd Harme Janse Knickerbacker Van Wye and to his heirs and assigns for ever all ye Certain Tract or Parcell of land scituate, lyeing & being in the County of Albany on ye West side of hudson's River above ye Land Commonly Called ye half moon, being about foure English miles' above ye farm or Bowery of Geurt Hendrickse, which said Land begins at ye kill or Creek that runs into hudson's River between ye wyle vlace and ye said Harme Janse's house and from thence along ye River northward as far as ye northermost end of a Small stonye Island which lyes on ye West side of hudson's River and strikes back from ye westward side of ye River into ye woods on ye South end along ye north side of ye said Kill or Creek so as ye same ruuns untill you come unto ye high hills which said hills runn along ye fly of ye half moon and streack as far as Sarochtoge and on ye north side from ye northermost end of ye said Stonie Island with a direct west line into ye woods till yu come to ye sd high hills aforesd So yt ye Land is bounded on ye East by Hudson's River on ye South by a kill yt lyes to ye northward of ye wyle kill, so as ye same Runns till it comes to ye high hills and then along ye foot of ye said high hills northward till within a direct East line yt can attain ye northermost end of ye sd stoney Island lying on ye West side of hudson's River So yt ye said harme Janse's Land is arable land lyes on ye east side of ye Road that goes to Saracktoge, and ye wood land on ye west side; Together with free grazeing for his Catle in ye woods of ye said Anthony Van Shaik as well as those yt have their farms in ye half moon, Always Exempting out of this graunt and Conveyance ye Creeks and Streams of water that are in ye said Bounds and



nothing else, Conveying to ye said harme Janse knickerbacker van wyee al ye orchards, gardens, yards, backside Fences, ways, Easements, land, Tene- ments, feeding Pastures, woods, underwoods, Profits, Commodities and hereditements with there and every of there Rights, members and appertenances what- soever thereunto belonging or in any manner or way appertaining or therewithal used and Enjoyed as part, parcell and member thereof, Except what is before Excepted and the Reversion and Reversions, Remaīnder and Remainders, Rents, Issues and Profits of ye same and of every part and parcell thereof and all ye Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Possession, prop- erty, claim, and demand whatsoever of ye sd Antho. Van shaik of, in or to ye same or any part or parcell thereof To have and to Hold ye said Tract of Land and all and Singular other ye p<sup>r</sup>misses hereby graunted, Bargained and Sold with there and every of there Rights members and appertenances whatso- ever Except ye Streams afores<sup>d</sup> to ye sd Harme Janse Knickerbacker van wyee his heirs and assigns for- ever, yielding, Rendring and Paying yearly and every year and ye said harme janse knickerbacker van wyee for himself his heirs, Executors, administrators and assigns doth Promise, Covenant and graunt to and with ye said Antho. Van Shaik his heirs and assigns for ye sd Tract of Land yearly and every year to pay in ye month of January in ye city of albany Two Skepells of good winter wheat and Two Shillings Currant money of this Province in liew off all quitt Rents and other services whatsoever and ye sd Antho. van Shaik for himself his heirs and assigns ye said Tract and Parcells of Land and all other singular ye p<sup>r</sup>misses unto ye sd harme Jans knickerbacker van wyee his heirs and assigns in there quiet and peaceable Pos- session and Sezen against him ye sd Antho. van shaik his heirs and assigns and all and every pson or ps ons whatsoever lawfully Cleyming by, from or under him or any of them shall or will warrant and forever de-



fend by these presents. In witness thereof ye Partyes to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably set there hands and seals ye 26 of February 1696/7.

(signed)

Harme Janse knickerbacker  
van wyye.

Sealed and Delivered  
in ye Presence of  
Jan Janse Bleecker, Justice of ye Peace  
Jan Vinnagen, Justice of ye Peace.  
Rt. Livingston.

This deed, with its lengthened out phrases, as though the man who drew it up was paid according to the number of words he could insert, is here given in full as it shows certain facts concerning Hermen Jansen's name and business transactions. It is unfortunately only a copy that is stored in the County Clerks office at Albany.

The clerk has evidently misread our ancestor's signature and has placed the "Van Wyye" *after* instead of *before* Knickerbacker which last he uses as the equivalent for "Kyc-back(e)" in the document of 1682. The deed of sale of this land ten years later to the brothers Ketelhuyn (1706-7) is word for word the same as this save for the very important exception of the consideration. Hermen Jansen bought this land in 1696-7 for eighteen pounds and a yearly rental of wheat and sold it ten years later for "one hundred and eighty four pounds ten shillings current money"—proving Hermen Jansen to have been a shrewd man of business! Hermen Jansen calls himself "late of Albany County" in the deed of 1706-7.

In 1697 (June 26), a list of the "Heads of Families" in the City and County of Albany was made which contains also the number of men, women and children in each family. On this list appears the name of Hermen Jansen under the heading, "So farr in this corporation," and his family is said to have consisted of "2 men, 1 woman and four children." This corresponds with Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker's family at this time. His eldest son Johannes, aged 18 years, but yet unmarried, would be the second "man." (Mun. An., Vol. IX, p. 85.)



In 1704, Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker, after remaining some 22 years on his bowery in the Halve Maan, bought land in Dutchess Co. and very soon thereafter moved to his new land lower down the valley of the Hudson. He may have been tempted by the more promising farming conditions and the milder climate. The land he bought of Hermen Gansevoort, the Albany brewer, was near Tivoli and Red Hook. When he moved his wife, his four sons and two daughters went with him—all his family indeed save his eldest son, Johannes. Since 1704 there have been no Knickerbackers in Albany Co. save the descendants of that eldest son. Johannes Hermensen appears to have left the Halve Maan shortly after his father and to have settled for the rest of his life at Schaghticoke on land which has remained for over two hundred years in the Knickerbacker name.

The Dutchess Co. Deed above mentioned is as follows, according to the copy now in the Office of the Secretary of State in Albany:

Albany Co. Deeds, Vol. VI, p. 14: To all Christian People to whom this present writeing shall come HARMEN GANSEVOORT of the City of Albany Brewer & Mary his wife sendeth Greeting;

Know you that for divers good Causes but Especially for & in Consideration of the sume of one hundred and fifty Pounds Currant money of this Province to them in hand paid at & before the ensealing and Delivery thereof by Harmen Jansen Knickerbacker of the County of Albany the receipt whereof they the said Harme Gansevoort and Mary his wife do hereby acknowledge and every Part and Parcell thereof do freely and Cleerly acquitt, Exonerate and discharge the said Harmen Jansz Knickerbacker his heirs, Executors, administrators and assigns and Every of them forever by these Presents they the said Harmen Gansevoort and Mary his wife have by virtue of a Conveyance made over by Coll<sup>o</sup>. Peter Schuyler of the said City, Gentl. unto the said Harmen Gansevoort dated the 15th Day of June 1689 Bargained, Sold, alliened Released, Enfoeffed Transported and



Confirmed & by these psents do fully, Clearly and absolutely Bargain, sell, alien, grant, release, Enfoeffe, Transport and Confirm unto the said Harmen Jansz Knickerbacker the half or moiety of a Certain Tract or parcell of Land Scituate, Lying and being on the East side of hudson's River in Dutches Co in the same Province over against the South end of Slypsteen Island, Beginning att the River side and so due East into the woods till upon a due South and North line it Reaches the Small Lake or Pond Called Waragh-kameeck from thence northerly so far till upon a due E&W line it reaches over against the sawers Creek Together with all and singular the Profits, Commodities and appertenances whatsoever to the same Tract or parcell of land belonging or in any wise appertaining to or with the same now or any time heretofore belonging or used, occupied or Enjoyed as part, parcell or member thereof with there and every of there appertenances unto the said Harmen Jansz Knickerbacker his heirs and assigns to the Sole and only Proper use, Benefit, and Behoof of the said Harme Jansz Knickerbacker his heirs and assigns forever and the said harme Gansevoort and Mary his wife doe by these presents, Promise, Covenant and Engage the sd Tract or Parcell of land and premises with there and every of there appertanances and every part and parcell thereof unto the sd Harme Jansz Knickerbacker his heirs, Executors, adrs, or assigns in his and there quiet and peaceable Possession forever by or from other grants Conveyances whatsoever made or to be made by the sd Harmen Gansevoort and Mary his wife or their heirs or assigns. IN witness thereof the sd Harmen Gansevoort and Mary his wife have hereunto sett there hands and seals in Albany this first Day of May in the third year of her Majesties Reign. Annoq<sup>e</sup> Dom 1704.

It is agreed upon before the sealing and delivery of these Presents by the parties that the northermost Bounds of the above sd Tract or parcell of Land do



not Infringe and Runn into into the Southermost bounds of the manner of Livingston which runns from the southermost bounds or boucht of Roeliff Jansen's kill and from thence by a straight line to a place on the River side Called Sanskakampka which lays over against the Sawyers Creek It is further agreed that the sd Harme Jansz Knickerbacker, his heirs and assigns do pay towards the quit rent due for the sd Land for his half or moyety yearly and every year three skiple of good wheat.

(signed)

harme gansevoort seal

Marya ganesvoort seal

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

Hend Hansen Justus

Johannes Cuyler, Justice

frans winne.

The exact position of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker's Dutchess County tract which he purchased from Hermen Gansevoort can be seen on the map of the Manor of Livingston in O'Callaghan's Doc. His. of New York, Vol. III, p. 834, as it lay along the southern limits of that Manor in what was afterwards known as Nine Partners, extending from the Hudson River to the pond east of the "Southernmost boucht of Roeliff Jansen's kill."

In the Colonial Laws of New York there is an order for mending a highway in 1721 which bears on the description of this deed. It reads: "Repair the said road to Claverack and also *the King's road that leads from the southern limits to the Manor of Livingston, which comes from the meadow of Harme Kinnebacker through the four Palatine villages.*" (Vol. II, p. 76.) In the same volume of Colonial Laws (p. 161) there is reference in 1723 to the land of "Harme Kinnebacker deceased."

The 1714 Census of Dutchess Co., N. Y., gives the family of Hermen Knickerbacker, as consisting of one male over sixty years of age, one male between sixteen and sixty, two



male persons under sixteen, two females from sixteen to sixty. Lawrence appears on this list with a wife and two children. (He had married Maritie Dyckman whose mother was Jannetje Viele.)

The only proof of the dates of decease of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker and his wife comes from the Dutchess Co. Tax Lists and they have been examined at Poughkeepsie. Hermen Jansen must have died before 1717-18, for at that time "the inhabitants, Residents, Sojourney and frieholders of Dutchess Co. are rated and assesed By ye assessors Chosen for ye Same the Day of 1717/18 for ye Northy Ward viz Janu'y the 17; Name I. Wedwen Van Harmen Kneeckerbaker £20 s18 d9." In 1728-29 "Weddow of Harmen Knecker Backer is assessed for £3 d9. and in 1730-1 (Feb. 2nd) for £4 s10. This is the last time she appears on the Tax books. Her sons Lowrens and Cornelius with her for years lead the Dutchess Co. Tax lists; the tax of Lowrens increases as his mother's declines as though she made over property to him.

In 1707-8 Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker made his will, a copy of which is in the County Clerk's office at Albany. The following copy was sent me by Mr. A. J. F. van Laer, who kindly made it:—

"Omitting the long religious preamble the will of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker reads as follows:

In the name of the Lord. Amen. Know all men by these presents that on this seventeenth day of January in the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ one thousand seven hundred and seven and eight, I, Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker of Dutchess County in the Province of New York being in reasonable health and in full possesion of my mind and understanding . . . give and dispose as follows;

I order that all my just debts be paid in proper time.

It is my will and desire that my worthy wife, Elizabeth Knickerbacker shall have and enjoy the income and profit of my whole real and personal estate during my aforesaid wife's life and that at her death my



aforesaid estate shall belong to my heirs hereinafter mentioned in manner following;

I give to my seven children lawfully precreated by my aforesaid wife to wit; Johannis, Lowrens, Cornelis, Evert, Pieter Knickerbacker, Jannetje Lansing, widow of Hendrick Lansing Jr and Cornelia Knickerbacker, my whole aforesaid real and personal estate to be divided equally among them and their heirs after the death of my said wife; on condition that none of my heirs shall have the power to sell his portion of the real estate to any one but the aforesaid Knickerbackers; only it is my will that my eldest son, Johannis shall first draw three shillings current money for his right of primogeniture without making any further claim on that account.

It is my will and desire that if before my death I happen to set off any portion of my land for one or more of my children such portion or portions shall after the death of my aforesaid wife belong to the child or children to whom I shall have set it off; providing it shall appear under my hand in presence of two or more witnesses what and how I have set it off.

I appoint as executors of this my last will and testament my aforesaid wife and my two sons, Johannis and Lowrens Knickerbacker, desiring that the fore-going shall in all respects be followed and observed. This done at my home in the aforesaid county the day and year above mentioned."

(signed) Heerman Jansen Kynckbacker.

Signed, sealed and Declared by  
Harmen Janse Knickerbacker to  
be his last will and testament in  
presence of us

Jan I. P. Ploeg (his mark)  
Pieter P. P. Pile his mark

D'Meyer, Clerk.

(Wills in Albany County Clerk's Office, Vol. I, pp.  
175-176.)



Everything regarding the ancestor that can be asserted with any degree of positiveness has been gathered into this sketch, which with the facts and conclusions presented under the headings: "Origin of the Knickerbacker Name" and "Concerning Early Traditions, etc.," represent a careful investigation of all available sources of information.

While regretting that some of the conclusions cannot claim to be final, it is at least hoped that the material is grouped sufficiently clearly as to be ready for the use of any one who may be tempted to seek further or for the fitting in of any new facts which may yet be unearthed from some musty MSS. whose contents are as yet buried in the original Dutch.



### III.

## The Origin of the Name of Knickerbacker

The name of Knickerbacker is unique. It seems safe to assert that there has never been but one family of that name. It is evident from the testimony that it is constructed out of a combination of a family name and an individual peculiarity. There has never before been offered a rational solution of its meaning.

For several years four others besides myself—all of whom have had experience in the unraveling of the origin of Dutch names—have given to this matter a good deal of thought and one theory after another has been run down without arriving at any satisfactory decision. It has been ventured that the name represented part of an old Holland family name, but all the combinations seemed far-fetched; that the ancestor's signature bore traces of lacking a syllable as would be the case perhaps in the writing of an illiterate man; but the syllable omitted could not be determined. It has been thought that the name denoted the occupation of the possessor and the Dutch dictionary has been searched for words whose combination would indicate what that was. There seems absolutely nothing to make *knickkel*-marbles and *backer*-baker—a baker of marbles, the etymology of the name. The name was never authoritatively written with "el" for the second syllable.

This suggestion is given in the third volume of Munsell's Annals, p. 59; but a note to the preface of the seventh volume says that Knickerbacker "was not the original name." This statement of Munsell as to probable meaning has been widely copied.

It is probable that the name is to be read just as the ancestor wrote it at the foot of the legal document of 1682. The Dutch always signed their family names to legal documents. The late Walter Kenneth Griffin, an excellent genealogist, has



well said, "Dutch names may be puzzling but they are logical and consistent."

Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker, as he came to be called, was at first most frequently spoken of as "Hermen Jansen van Bommel." This was the name of the place in Holland that he hailed from. But to his contract with Anthony van Schaick in 1682 he signs himself "Hermen Jansen van Wyekycback(e). Why not take this just as he has written it and give it at least a logical interpretation?

Hermen Jansen came from Bommel, in North Brabant, near which there was then and had been for several centuries a branch of the ancient family of Van Wye in which the names of Hermen and Johannes were very common. As far back as the fourteenth century there was a Hermen Van Wye who was Governor of the Neder-Betuwe, where the fortified town of Bommel was situated.

The family tradition says that Hermen Jansen was in the Dutch navy, and although this has not been proven there is nothing to prevent its having been true. He is said to have been with De Ruyter's fleet in the Battle of Solebay, fought June 7, 1672, and to have been there wounded. I doubt if an unwritten tradition would have done more than have handed down the facts of his fighting and of his wound. Therefore when I found that in the next year (1673) there had been a still more fierce and sanguinary battle fought by the same fleet under the same commanders off the Dutch dunes at a place called Kijk, I could not but note its similarity to the "Kyc" in the ancestor's name, especially when "back" (cheek) gave such an easy reading as—Hermen Jansen van Wye-Kijk-back—Kijk cheek—or cheek marked at Kijk!

In the effort to read the name, the "Wye," which might easily be mistaken for "Nye" (it has been read in both ways by different clerks), was so interpreted and the name became Niekiebacker-Niekerbacker, from which the transition was easy to the final form of Knickerbacker.

The clerk in the first document, that of 1682, writes the name kinne ker backer. Kinneback is jawbone—kinnekyc-backer—man with the Kijk-jawbone, falls into line as a suggestion, but as to form it is more far-fetched.



There is no such name as Knickerbacker in Holland and since we have the signature of the ancestor to go by we must bear in mind that he does not call himself Knickerbacker, but "van Wyekycback(e).

It is from this signature that the origin of the name and of the man must be traced.

List of various renderings of the name of Hermen Jansen  
Knickerbacker as they appear on the Albany Records

1680 (April 6) Harme Janse van Bommell (Proceedings of the Comm., 1676, 80 p. 500).

1682 (Dec. 11) Hermen Jansen van Wyekycback(e); Harme Jansz Kinnekerbacker. (Albany Deeds book III, p. 170.)

1683 Harmen Jansz Knickelbacker (List of Dutch church members).

1684 (May 6) Harmen Jansen Kinnekerbacker (Court Minutes 1680-1685 Debt).

1684 (June 3) Harmen Janssen van Bommel (Court Minutes; jury trial).

1686 (Jan'y 1) Harme Jansz van Bommel (Dutch Church Register).

1688 (Sept. 8) Harmen Jansz (Dutch Church Register).

1689 (Sept.) Harme Jansen van Bommel (Munsell's Annals of Albany, Vol. II, p. 112, 113).

1692 (Jan'y 6) Harmen Jansz and Lysbet Jansz (Dutch Church Register).

1695 (July 21) Harmen Knickelbacker, Lysbet Bogert (Dutch Church Register).

1696-7 (Feb. 26) Harmen Jansen Knickerbacker Van Wyye (Albany Indexes, Book IV, p. 94).

1698 (March 9) Harme van Bommell, Lysbet Bogert (Albany Dutch Church Register).

1699 (Sept. 3) Hermen Janse, Lysbet Bogert (Albany Dutch Church Register).



1702 (April 19) Harme Knickelbacker, Lysbet Bogert (Albany Dutch Church Register).

1704 (May 1) Harmen Jansen Kinckerbacker (Albany Indexes, Book VI, p. 14).

1706-7 (March 15) Harmen Janssen Nyckbacker (Albany Co. Deeds, Vol. VI, p. 39).

1707 (Feb. 26) Heermen Jansen Kynckbacker (Wills, Vol. I., pp. 175, 178, Albany County Clerk's office).





THE OLD KNICKERBOCKER HOMESTEAD.  
SCHAGHTICOKE, N. Y.



## IV.

### The Knickerbackers at Schaghticoke

The town of Schaghticoke lies in the Hoosic Valley, not far from where the Hoosic flows into the Hudson. About 1676 this fertile section, "lying on Hudson's River on the branch that runs towards Canada," had been vacated by its early inhabitants—the Algonquin Indians—who, after years of hostility had been at last subdued by the Mohawks and driven northward.

In this year it was taken possession of by a band of Pequots, who in their turn had been driven by their enemies from their home in New England during King Philip's War. They came here to settle on the initiative of Gov. Andros, the then governor of the Province of New York. These Indians called themselves and their new home Schaghticoke—the place of mingling waters—for it is here that the Hoosic River and Tamhennick Creek join and flow into the Hudson. Schaghticoke is the surviving form of an Indian name of many spellings.

At the time that Gov. Andros invited the Eastern Indians to make their home in the Hoosic Valley he planted at Schaghticoke a "Tree of Welfare" as a sign of good faith.

The Indians have long passed away but the aged oak still survives though in a dying condition, a monument to the memory of the days when beneath its wide-spreading branches the red men gathered to hold their Witenagamet or Council of Peace. In 1700, when the Earl of Bellomont was governor of the Province, the Indians living on the East bank of the Hudson in their address to him thus spoke of the event which the Tree of Peace commemorated:

"It is now six and twenty years since wee were almost dead when wee left New England and were first received into this government; then it was that a tree was planted at Schaak-kock whose branches has spread so that there is a comfortable shade under the leaves of it; wee are unanimously resolved to



live and dye under the shadow of that tree for you need not apprehend that thou any of our people goe out a-hunting they will look out for another country since they like that place called Schaakkook so well."

This "Tree of Welfare," from which the locality has obtained its pleasing name of the "Vale of Peace," is literally the background of the Knickerbacker landscape, for it stands just back of the family homestead and was in daily view of every one of its inhabitants for many generations. It was indeed part of the family life; its enormous branches casting a shade over an acre of ground seemed to have fulfilled the hopes of the Indians who loved it, namely, that: "Ye leaves will grow so thick that no sunn at all shall shine through it."

It appears that about 1728 some of these Indians did join their kindred in Canada and the others gradually disappeared, but until the middle of the last century small bodies of Indians continued to visit their old burial place and Council tree. They were accompanied it is said for many years by an aged woman of the Royal race named, Bathsheba, who died in 1854 when over one hundred years of age.

As usual, the white man coveted the Indian's land, and in 1686 when Gov. Dongan gave the City of Albany its charter, he inserted therein a clause empowering the Common Council at Albany, "Att their pleasure to purchase from these Indians at Schaahtecogue the quantity of Low or Meadow land lying at a certeyne place called and known by the name of Schaahtecogue." (Weise's His. of Albany, p. 201.) Ten years later, nothing having been done in this matter, Gov. Fletcher, on March 29, 1698, granted a patent to Hendrick van Rensselaer which permitted this last to purchase from the Indians a tract of land "by Skachkook's creek" and extending easterly by Hudson's river for six miles. As this patent embraced a portion of the land desired by the City of Albany the two parties entered into an agreement Aug. 2, 1698, whereby Van Rensselaer conveyed his patent to the city for a consideration in 1699.

It was not, however, until the 20th day of February, 1706-7, that the city of Albany exercised the rights it had been granted in 1686 and made an agreement with the Schaghticoke Indians



whereby the latter, through their spokesmen, the two chiefs, Mashahes and Machatawe, consented to sell their land at Schaghticoke to the city of Albany in exchange for "2 blankets, 12 duffel coats, 20 shirts, 2 guns, 12 pds pouder, 36 pounds lead, 8 gal of Rom, 2 casks beer, 2 Rolls Tobacco, 10 gal. Medera wine, & some pypes and moreover yearly to be paid and delivered unto ye sd Indian Mashahaes or his heirs in ye month of October during the Space of tenn years commencing from ye day, 1 blanket, 1 shirt, 1 pair stockings, 1 Lapp, 1 keg Rom, 3 pounds pouder, 6 pounds Lead, 12 pounds Tobacco and that a writering shall be given to ye sd Mashahaes for about 12 acres of Low Land in Shaahkook at such place as ye Commonalty shall lay it out and that ye same shall be laid and Kept in fence at ye Charge of ye City on Accasion so that ye sd Mashahaes and his heirs shall Cultivate and make use thereof forever."

The Commonalty of the City of Albany in 1708 finding themselves in legal possession of this Shaahkook tract proceeded to make preparations for disposing of it to those among its citizens who might desire to settle there, and put this notice on the doors of the Dutch church: "These are to give notice that of the Lands Belonging to the Citty of albany Called Sachtekook, Eight Plantations on ye South Side of ye Creek are to be Let to farm, Each Containing five and twenty morgan or fifty acres Low Land and five morgan up Land; if therfore any Person or Persons be Inclined to farm any of ye Sd Plantations may apply themselfs to Commonalty of ye Sd Citty at ye Citty hall of ye Sd Citty on ye 10 of July next at one a Clock in the afternoon when and where ye Sd Conditions how ye Sd Plantations are to be Lett Shall be made known unto them."

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The conditions were as follows:

"Any Person or Persons who Shall farm any of Sd. Plantations . . . shall Pay for and in Consideration of one of ye Sd Eight Plantations unto ye . . . Commonalty . . . upon the Receipt of an Indenture which Shall be given them the first day of Sept. 1708, the Sume of fifteen Pounds Currant money . . . and Six years after the date hereof two shepl good winter



wheat off Each morgan or two acres for Ever." Furthermore it was agreed that if the land so acquired should not be improved upon in the space of three years it should fall again into the possession of the City and also that in case any one acquiring it should wish to sell it he must first offer to sell it to the city of Albany and only to another in case the city did not wish to purchase it back from him.

Twenty citizens responded, but of the twenty applicants eight only could become possessors, so "the Commonalty Seeing yt here are twenty Persons willing Each to have a Plantation of Sachtekook on ye aforesd Conditions, ordered ye Clerk to write Eight Billets for ye Eight Plantations and twelf Billets Blank and to Let them all draw wh they accordingly did out of mr mayor hatt and they that gett ye Billet to have a Plantation were these, viz:

Daniel Ketelhuyn  
 Johs Cuyler  
 Johs harmense  
 Johs D wandlaer Junr:  
 Barent gerritse  
 Cornelis Van Buren  
 Korset Vedder  
 Dirk van der heyden."

On August 31, 1708, these eight men received their indentures as agreed and on September 28, 1708, Rob. Livingston and two others were sent down to measure up these plantations, for which they were to be paid "Seven Shillings per diem upon their own charge." On December 13, 1708, these eight men, all of whom had begun to farm their land, petitioned for easier terms in their payments and for exemption in case of being hindered in their farming "by ye enemy." On January, 1708-9, five of these eight men had paid their indebtedness on their land to the city. On January 8, 1708-9, Johs Knickerbacker and Dirck Van Vechten petition for ground "on the hemacks hill at Schachtekook . . . ware a Conveniency may be found fit to erect a Saw mill on together with a Privilege to cut Saw logs within ye Citty bound."

The petition was at this time referred to future consideration, but it was probably granted, since no similar application



appears on the records until 1720, and it would be the policy of the Commonalty at Albany to facilitate the building plans of the settlers at Schaghticoke. The Dutch sawed the wood for their buildings and did not as a general thing erect log houses. Thus John Knickerbacker and Dirck Van Veghten probably cut the first boards for the first homes built at Schaghticoke in 1709.

By May 28, 1709, both these men had secured land at Schaghticoke, for they, together with Johs. D. wandlaer and Daniel Ketelhuyn, "who have farmed each a farm belonging to ye Citty," petition in behalf of ye rest of ye farmers to send some one to measure ye lots "which are lacking in proportion." This settlement of Johannes Knickerbacker at Schaghticoke before October, 1709, is explained by the city record of that date, which says: "It was resolved yt a minute be made yt ye Commonalty of this Citty on ye 8th inst were at Scaah-tekook in order to lay out your hoffsteads for ye severall Tenants and to give ym their proportion of land according to a minute made in Common Council on ye 13th of December last (1708) is performed accordingly and indentures given this day and date viz: to Johs D wandlaer Junr, Johs harmense vischer, Corset vedder, Danl. Ketelhuyn and to Johs. Knickerbacker instead of Cornelis Van Buren at his own request. Likewise to Lewis Viele instead of Dirck Vanderheyden & to Dirck Van Veghten instead of Mr John Cuyler likewise at his own request."

This shows exactly the manner in which Johannis Knickerbacker became a settler in Schaghticoke. He was not one of those who drew one of the eight plantations, he was not even one of the twenty who originally made an attempt to secure one, but he took up the claim of the successful Cornelis Van Buren when he gave it up. (Munsell's Albany Annals, Vol. V, pp. 182-196.)

Stress has been laid on this point, as Dr. Van Alstyne in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record for January, 1908, p. 35, Weisse in the Swartwout and Ketelhuyn Chronicles, p. 543, and J. Munsell in the preface to the seventh volume of his Annals, all three in this case confuse Johannes Hermensen Knickerbacker with Johannes Hermensen Vischer.



In the indenture given by the Mayor, Evert Bancker, on October 13, 1709, to "Johannes Knickerbacker of the manner of Renslaerwyck miller," he received thirty morgans in two parts. "Parcel 1. Called No 8 and No 7 contains 20 morgans adjoining on N. to lot called No 6 and on S. to No 9. both belonging to Dirck Van Veghten and on E. to Creek called Tamhenicks Kill and on W. to the hills; Parcel 2 over on E. side of said creek 10 m. including 5m agreed upon for the hofstead adjoining on the W. the hofstead of Johannis D'Wandelaer Junior on W to Mudder creek on S. E. to hofstead of Johanis Harmense Vischer. (signed Evert Bancker and J. K. Backer.)"

(Albany Co. Deeds, Book V, p. 72.)

The occupation of "J. K. Backer" is doubtless given as that of a miller because of his saw-mill.

On November 12, 1709, Johannis Knickerbacker sold some of his recently acquired land to Marten Delamont, who had married Louwes Viele's sister Lisbeth. This deed is not recorded till February 1, 1717-8, and was signed "J. K. Backer." We must go back for a moment to the sale by Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker of his land in the Halve Maan in 1706-7 to the Ketelhuyn brothers because of even date with this sale there is a lease which concerned his son Johannes; it reads as follows:

"Know all men by these presents that wee Daniel Ketelhuyn and David Ketelhuyn of ye City of Albany are held and firmly bound unto Johannis Knickerbacker of ye Colony of Renselaerwyck in ye county of Albany aforesd in the Penal sume of three hundred Sixty and nine pounds Currant money of New York for which payment well and timely to be made unto the said Johannis Knickerbacker his certain attorney his heirs and executors, administrators, assigns, wee doe hereby bynde ourSelves our heirs, Execut<sup>rs</sup> and administrators and Every of them firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals dated in Albany this fifteenth day of March in ye sixth year of his Maj<sup>es</sup> Reign a<sup>n</sup>.D. 1706-7."



The Condition of ye above written obligation is such that if the above written Daniel Ketelhuyn and David ketelhuyn they or Either of them, or any of their heirs Executors, administrators doe well and Truely pay or cause to be paid unto ye above mentioned Johannis Knickelbacker his heirs, Executors, administrators or assigns the just and full sume of one Hundred Eighty and Four pounds, Tenn shillings Currant money as aforesaid vitz: Sixty one pounds, Tenn shillings on or before the first day of May one thousand seven hundred and Eight ye sume of Sixty one pounds, Tenn shillings on or before the first day of may one thousand seven hundred and nine and the sume of Sixty one pounds, Tenn shillings all Currant money as aforesaid on or before the first day of may one thousand, seven hundred and Tenn this without fraud or further delay than this obligation to be void ; Else to be and Remain in full force and virtue.

Daniel Ketelhuyn seal  
David Ketelhuyn "

Sealed, signed and delivered  
in the presence of  
Johannis Roseboom Justice  
Johannis Schuyler, Justice  
Recorded ye 15th March 1706-7

Albany ye first day of may 1708 Johannis Knickerbacker appeared in ye clerk's office and did Produce the originall Bond of Daniel Ketelhuyn and David Ketelhuyn and acknowledged to have Received from Daniel Ketelhuyn the first Paym<sup>t</sup> of ye sd Bond being Sixty one pound, tenn shillings of N. York. J say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me

J. K. Backer Seal.

Albany p<sup>r</sup>o may 1711.

Then appeared in the Clerk's office David Ketelhuyn and produced the orginall bond above recorded whereof the seals were torn and did declare that he had paid Johannis Knickebacker in full wherein he and



Daniel Ketelhuyn stood bound to him as witness my hand

Philip Livingston D. Sr.

(Albany Co. Deeds vol. V. p. 39.)

From these documents it would appear that Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker when he sold this land to the brothers Ketelhuyn took from them a purchase money bond and mortgage whch he had made out in the name of his eldest son Johannis and it is probable that this was a gift to Johannes to start life on.

It will be observed that Johannis Knickerbacker avoided writing his lengthy name by signing himself "J. K. Backer." This signature is written on the front cover of his family Bible. His signature to the deed of 1709 and his signature in the Bible have been placed side by side and prove to be identical. I have seen several other deeds so signed by this Knickerbacker. In 1699 an oath of allegiance to William III of England was signed by all the male inhabitants of Albany Co. over 16 years of age. On this list among those living in the Manor of Renselaerwyck are the names of "Harme Janse" and "J. K. Backer." Who that had not puzzled the matter out would surmise that these were father and son and that their name was Knickerbacker! (Mun. An., Vol. III, p. 278.)

Johannes Hermensen Knickerbacker, instead of accompanying his father and the rest of the family to Dutchess Co. in 1704-5, choose rather to seek to form a part of the new settlement at Schaghticoke, on the opposite side of the Hudson from Halve Maan. He took up land there which to-day remains in the Knickerbacker name. Johannis had married in 1701 Anna Quackenbos, daughter of Wouter Pieterse Quackenbos and his first wife Neeltje Gysbertse (Hol. Soc. Year Book, 1905, p. 2), "both born in the manor of Renslaerwyck." Anna's father had married for his second wife, Cornelia Bogert, an aunt of Johannes Knickerbacker. Johannes had probably very little chance of an education, but he writes his name boldly and it may be he had some instruction from his neighbor, Evert De Ridder, who afterwards applied for permission to teach school in Albany.

When Johannes Hermensen entered upon his life at Schaghticoke he began a career of forty years of hard struggle with



natural conditions, never free from apprehension of attacks from the French and their Indians. No sooner had he felled the trees of the primeval forest and sawed them into rough boards in his self-constructed saw-mill and built out of them his home-stead, no sooner cleared and cultivated the ground for crops, than he began to suffer from the depredations of prowling parties of the foe.

In March, 1716-7, we find the authorities at Albany demanding from the little band of settlers at Schaghticoke their yearly stipend of winter wheat for which they were in arrears (this yearly tribute gave to their possession of their land the character of a perpetual lease). In April, Knickerbacker and the rest petitioned for an abatement of their obligation, "for ye time the quiet and peaceable settlement of ye lands in their possession has been hindered by ye enemy." This was granted them for the space of three years. Later they ask for and receive another abatement for two years more, "having been hindered from improving their settlement."

Nevertheless, Johannis Knickerbacker went on increasing his estate. In April, 1720, the Commonalty at Albany appointed a Committee to see that the land at Schaghticoke which Johannes Knickerbacker and others desire to purchase from the city is properly surveyed. On the 25th of March, 1721, David Schuyler made application to the Albany authorities for permission to sell to Knickerbacker the land which he had purchased from them on February 28th of the same year, "for the sum of fifty pounds." On the 15th of March, 1727-8, Joh. Knickerbacker, Louwis Viele, Dirk Van Vechten and Johannis Groesbeck apply to the Corporation for permission to erect a saw-mill at Schaghticoke "where there is a fitt creek within the bounds of land belonging to the Corporation of the City fitt for a saw-mill and ye petitioners being inclined to build such a mill on a fall on sd creek for their use and the neighborhood."

On June 11, 1729, Knickerbacker again petitions the Common Council for more land. On Jan. 4, 1732, "Johannes Knickerbacker desired of the Board that he have the privilege of the land that belongs to this city which is bound by the W of his land of the same breadth as his land is and so running westerly



to the bridge or top of the hill for himself, his heirs and assigns . . . granted for one skiple of good wheat to begin in Jan. or Feb., 1735." On July 2, 1735, Knickerbacker effects an exchange of land with Jan Christianse. On Sept. 29, 1736, the city records say, "this day sold to Johannis Knickerbacker a certain piece or parcil of woodland . . . at Schaahkook . . . containing 12 morgan . . . beginning where the old Indian foot road what leads from Schaahkook to Twightkook meets a small run of water at the foot of the hill, etc. . . . for which said Johannis Knickerbacker agrees to pay eighteen pounds."

The last item concerning this Knickerbacker on the Albany records is dated June 20, 1743, and is as follows: "This Board ordered the clerk to draw an order on the treasurer to pay . . . Johannis Knickerbacker for his trouble to come down from Schaahkook 12s and to Anthony Bratt 9s for his trouble to fetch down said Knickerbacker."

In 1749 he died and was buried in the old Indian cemetery near the Knickerbacker homestead where the bones of so many Knickerbackers are mingled with the dust of red men who were before them owners of their lands.

Joseph Foster Knickerbacker wrote of Johannis Hermense: "He lived much among the Indians and learnt their language so that he often acted as interpreter for the Colony." In 1714, Joseph says, he was instrumental in getting a church started at Schaghticoke, where for many years thereafter the Domines of Albany and Schenectady took turns in holding services. In that year a little wooden church was built and also a block house to which the settlers could flee on the approach of unfriendly Indians.

In 1715 Johannis Hermense was a member of Capt. John Schuyler's Co. of Albany troops (Rep. N. Y. State His., 1896-7 Vol. I, p. 461-2). Two of his brothers were this same year in the Militia of Dutchess Co. Joh Knickerbacker was still alive in 1745 when there was a most distressing attack made by the French and their Indian allies on Schaghticoke. He lived to witness, in 1746, the erection at Schaghticoke of a fort where there were stationed two companies of troops till the end of the seven years war.



At Schaghticoke, in August, 1721, there occurred unusual freshets so that three times the land was flooded; Johannes Hermense makes note of this in his Bible; it doubtless seemed to him like a visitation from God, worthy of record in the Sacred Book.

"Albany, 1721, August, three times we had high water so that much winter corn drove away and pease and oats; 11th, 18th, 26th August." This in Dutch, written with his own hand, just beneath his name on the inside cover.

Johannes Hermensen Knickerbacker left surviving him three sons and three daughters. His eldest son, Hermen, was the third of his children. He was baptized Christmas Day, 1709, with Killian Van Rensselaer and his wife as sponsors.

Here is J. F. Knickerbacker's account of him:

"Hermen Jansen second was born Dec. 19, 1709. He was sent to Holland at an early age and educated at Leiden. After his return he married Gertrude Schuyler, April 10, 1730. She died May 15, 1733, aged 21 years; their only child, John Schuyler, died January 10, 1744.

Hermen Knickerbacker was a very benevolent and influential man. After the death of his wife and only child he lived in close retirement and died Sept. 6, 1768, leaving the bulk of his property to the son of his brother John, the only male descendant of the name in this branch of the family."

The only marriage of Hermen Knickerbackers of which there is any trace on the records is on that of the Dutch church in Albany, where under the date of May 25, 1746, the baptism of Johannes, son of Hermen Knickerbacker and Rebecca De Wandelaer is listed. The sponsors to this baptism are Johannes and Cornelia Knickerbacker. On December 2, 1747, there was buried by that church the "child of Harme Knickerbacker." (Hol. Soc. Year Book, 1906, p. 112; Munsell's Albany Annals, Vol. I, p. 244.)

Joseph is wrong in saying that Hermen Knickerbacker lived in retirement after the death of those nearest to him, for the records show that he spent considerable time abroad fighting the encroachments of the French.

On November 7, 1733, Hermen Knickerbacker was an Ensign in the Albany Co. Militia, and it is likely that he remained in the service, for in 1748 the State makes payment of



£1, 16s. "to Harme Knickerbacker for transporting troops and stores to Saratoga in June, 1746." (Colonial Laws of N. Y., Vol. III, p. 707.) This was just after Saratoga had been burnt and the inhabitants massacred and belated efforts were being made to stave off future depredations.

In 1755 we find on a list of the officers of Albany Co. "for Saratoga and Schaghticoke" the name of Captain Hermen Knickerbacker and as Second Lieutenant of his company his brother Johannes Knickerbacker. (Report N. Y. State His., 1896-7, Vol. I, p. 758.)

They evidently did not receive their Commissions until October 20, 1757, as their names with their rank and date of Commission are on a list in this same volume entitled "A Return of the First Battalion of the Albany Reg't of Militia whereof the Hon. Sir William Johnson Bar't is Colonel, Albany, Sept. 6, 1762." From this list it appears that many officers' commissions were officially issued on October 20, 1757. It is stated by the editor that this list represents officers who had seen *actual service* and that it was one of the papers belonging to Sir William Johnson which are now owned by New York State.

In 1755 there certainly was opportunity to see active service, for the French and Indians had swooped down from Crown Point, where they had established a base, and invaded many a peaceful home between that point and Albany. In this year Johnson assembled four thousand men at Albany for the purpose of attacking Ticonderoga and Crown Point. (Williams, New York's Part in History, p. 207.) There can be but little doubt but that our two Knickerbacker brothers were among these, as the following quotation from the Colonial Laws of New York shows: "1758. Unto Captain Harme Knickerbacker for himself and Company of Militia for several marches on the said frontier against the enemy from August in the year 1756 to the 27th of March following, by order of Col. Rensselaer as per account, the sum of £28, 8s." Further it seems evident that they took part in the siege of Fort William Henry and were present at the time of the fearful massacre which there took place after the surrender of the English, as witnesses this further item: "1758. Unto the said Captain



Knickerbacker for himself and company of Militia on the said frontier against the enemy when Ft. William Henry was attacked and destroyed from the 3rd to the 27th of August last, by order of Col. Rensselaer as per account, the sum of £85, 10s." (Colonial Laws of N. Y., Vol. IV, pp. 255, 256.)

In 1751 Hermen Knickerbacker was appointed Deacon of the Dutch church at Schaghticoke and remained such until 1763 when Jacob Viele succeeded him. On December, 1767, he was appointed Elder of the same and after his death in the next year his brother Johannes took his office. Hermen Knickerbacker was spoken of as "a beloved Elder." There was much dignity and some responsibility attached to these offices in the Dutch church.

Hermen Knickerbacker had, as we can read between the lines, a cultivated mind, a kindly heart and a brave spirit; educated in Leiden, a "beloved Elder," a soldier engaged in many a skirmish with the French and their Indians; "in a field covering a frontier that was constantly exposed to the depredations of the Indians and to the horrors consequent to Indian uprisings and Indian atrocities." He and his brother Johannes—later Colonel of the 14th Albany Co. Regiment in the Revolution—are the heroes of their family.

When visiting the Knickerbacker mansion a few years since, we observed a large silver platter, such as is used to take up the collection in churches, with this inscription encircling it: "Eene Gedagtenis van Hermen Knickerbacker die is overleden op den Sept A. D. 1768 Out Synde 8 en 50 jaren 8 maanden ende 18 dagen." It hung at that time in the entrance hall over the parlor doorway.

On Sept. 12th, 1768, Harmen Knickerbacker made his will, which reads as follows:

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Harmen Knickerbacker of Scotta Cook, in Albany County, yeoman, being very sick, I direct all debts to be paid. I leave to my nephew, John Knickerbacker, son of my brother John, all my estate except as here given and all my lands, messuges and tenements. And he shall pay to my sister, Elizabeth Quackenboss £.100., and to my nephew Derick



Van Faiter Jr and to his sister Hannah Kip £.50. and to my brother Woughter Knickerbacker £.100., and to my sister Nealcha Knickerbacker £.100. I give to my cousin Hannah, wife of Cornelius Van Faiter my silver tea-pot and spoons. 'But it shall tarry in my house till the death of my sister Neolcha.' I leave to my cousin Hannah, wife of Lewis T. Viele six table spoons. To my cousin Hannah, wife of Egnon (Ignas) Kip 6 tablespoons. To my sister Neolcha a negro man. I make my brothers Woughter and John executors. Witnesses Johannes D. Wandelaer, Jacob Viele, Johannes S. Quackenboss." Proved Nov. 1, 1768. (N. Y. His. Soc. Abt. of Wills as corrected, Vol. VIII, p. 75.)

Two of Johannes Hermensen's daughters married. Lysbet became the wife of Sybrant Quackenbos, February 8, 1725, and Cornelia married Teunis Van Veghten February 29, 1744. Cornelia died November 3, 1761, and the bequest of her brother Hermen in 1768 was therefore to her son Dirck (Dariah) and to his sister Anna, who had married Ignas Kip only the year before. Hannah, wife of Cornelis Van Veghten, called in Hermen Knickerbacker's will "my cousin," was really his niece, daughter of his brother Woughter (Annatie Knickerbacker, baptized in Albany, November 9, 1735), and "my cousin" Hannah, wife of Lewis T. Viele, was his niece, Annatie Quackenbos (baptized January 8, 1735). The "Neolcha" Knickerbacker referred to was Hermen's unmarried sister.

Lisbet Knickerbacker and Sybrant Quackenbos had nine children and Cornelia Knickerbacker and Teunis Van Veghten had four children. (See N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Record for April, 1908, pp. 116, 118.)

Neeltje (Neolcha) Knickerbacker outlived her brother Herman but a few years and her will, which is interesting for its quaint enumeration of and disposal of the wardrobe which she had no doubt carefully preserved with true Dutch thrift, is as follows:—

"In the name of God, Amen; March 26. 1775. I, Neeltje Knickerbacker of Schaghtacooke, in Albany



County, being weak in body. I direct all debts to be paid. I leave to Dirck T. Van Veghten £25., 'to pay my funeral charges.' I also leave him my negro man 'Tom' and my negro wench 'Eve.' I leave to Teunis, son of Dirck T. Van Veghten, 'all my bedding and slapbank,' with four sheets and 3 pair of pillow cases and my plush Camlet gown, and 6 teaspoons and £10. and my chest. I leave to Cornelia, daughter of Igenas Kip £50., 'and one of my Callecoe gouns.' If she dies without issue then to her brother Teunis Kip. I leave to Johannes S. Quackenboss £40. To Annetje, wife of Igenas Kip, my silk gown and silk quilted Petticoate. To Annatje, wife of Lewis T. Viele £15. To Maria, daughter of Lewis T. Viele 'my silveret gown.' To Elizabeth, wife of John\* Fort, £10. and my long cloak. To Neeltje daughter of Harme Quackenbush my double long gown. To Annetje Viele, daughter of Johannis Knickerbacker, £10. I leave the rest of my clothing to Annatje, wife of Lewis T. Viele and Annatje, wife of Igenas Kip except one Calecoe gown and my gold earrings which I give to Margarita, daughter of Dirck T. Van Veghten, to whom I leave all the remainder of my estate. I make Johannes Quackenboss and Dirck T. Van Veghten my executors." Witnesses John Davenport, Petrus Beniva (Bennaway) Dirck Swart. Proved before John De Peyster October 9, 1775. (N. Y. His. Soc. Abt. of Wills, Vol. VIII, p. 308.)

*Note\*—Should read "Hermen."*

Was the negro, Tom, whom Hermen Knickerbacker left to "Neolcha" in his will, the slave, Tom, of whom so many amusing tales are told and who was so much loved in the family of which he was for 90 years the devoted servant?

One story told of Tom is that on one occasion when it became necessary to count a flock of sheep, Tom was placed at the entrance to a certain field and told to count the sheep in a loud voice as they passed by. Tom commenced in a business-like manner: "One! Two! Three!" but continued, "Dar goes anudder! Dar goes anudder! Dar goes anudder!" "Stop!"



cried his master, "What do you mean by that?" "Why, massa," said Tom, "I done count no more dan tree; I tought I could but I couldn't." In that part of the Knickerbacker burying-ground where the slaves were buried there is a rude stone inscribed with the words, "Old Tom."

The two younger sons of Johannes Hermensen Knickerbacker were Wouter and Johannes. Wouter seems to have settled in Albany, in what capacity does not appear. In 1762 he had a seat in the Dutch church there.

About the date of his brother Hermen's death (1768) he was living near "Fox's Creek" in that town, as is shown by a resolution of the Common Council of Albany made in 1787 concerning some Tan pits which were near lots "granted to Wouter Knickerbacker and others in fee simple" on 12th Sept., 1768. (Mun. Col., Vol. I, p. 192; Vol. II, p. 305.) According to Pearson he died in Saratoga, August 8, 1797, aged 94 years and 9 months. He had three daughters who lived to maturity: Anna, who married Cornelis Van Veghten; Alida, who married Derick Van Veghten, and Elizabeth, who married Hermen Fort. His wife was Elizabeth Fonda, younger sister of Rebecca Fonda, wife of his brother, Col. Johannes Knickerbacker.

We have now come to Col. Johannes Knickerbacker, the Revolutionary officer as well as Indian fighter. He was born March 17, 1723, and baptized the next week on March 24th (wit.: Nicholas and Maria Groesbeck—this last his mother's sister, Maritje Quackenbos). He seems to have lived long at home as he did not marry until 1750, the year after his father's death. Then he married, as has been mentioned, a sister of his brother Wouter's wife. These two sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, were the daughters of Nicholas (Claes) Fonda and Annetje Marselis. Claes Fonda, Constable and High Constable in Albany (1706-7), was the son of Douve Jillise Fonda, whose father, Jillise Douvesen Fonda, was in Beverwyck as early as 1654.

We have seen that Lieutenant Johannes Knickerbacker accompanied Sir William Johnson in the expedition to "Crown Point and Ticonderoga" in 1757 and that as a member of his brother Hermen's Co. of Albany Militia he took part in the



siege of Ft. William Henry in August of that year. This is in line with the family tradition that he was "with Lord Howe at Ticonderoga." Family tradition says further that he was "attached to the staff of Lord Howe." It seems most likely that he was among the nine thousand provincial troops who in July, 1758, assembled at Lake George when—"The massacre of Fort William Henry only the year before was fresh in the minds of the men and they were eager to avenge the death of their friends and countrymen." The question as to whether Lord Howe would attach a Dutchman to his staff seems settled by the following estimate of him: "Howe was not only a fine soldier and free from the narrow prejudices so common among the British officers at that time but he grasped the Colonial point of view and recognized the worth of the men who had experience in border warfare."

On the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, Johannes Knickerbacker was made Colonel of the 14th Albany Co. Regiment composed of men from "Saratoga and Schaghticoke" and was with his regiment under Gen. Arnold at the Battle of Saratoga where he was wounded. It may be that after that he was forced to retire from active service, as Peter Yates became the second Colonel of this regiment.

The loyalty of the spirit of Johannes Knickerbacker and many another in this vicinity is shown in the wording of a paper entered in the Book of Records of the Committees of Correspondence and Safety now in the State Library, Albany, N. Y. It is called "A General Association agreed to and subscribed by the members of the several Committees of the city and county of Albany," and the date seems to be just after the Battle of Lexington and before Bunker Hill.

"Persuaded that the Salvation of the Rights and Liberties of America depends under God in the firm Union of its inhabitants in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety and convinced of the necessity of preventing the Anarchy and Confusion which attends a dissolution of the Powers of Government WE, Freemen, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the City and County of Albany being greatly alarmed



at the avowed Design of the Ministry to raise a Revenue in America and shocked at the bloody scene now acting in Massachusetts Bay, DO in the most solemn manner resolve never to become slaves; and to associate under all the ties of religion, Honor and Love for our country, to adopt and to endeavour to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress or resolved upon by our Provincial Convention for the purpose of preserving our Constitution; and opposing the Execution of the Arbitrary and Oppressive Acts of the British Parliament until a Reconciliation between Great Britain and America on Constitutional Principals (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained; and that we will in all things follow the advice of our General Committee respecting the purposes aforesaid—the Preservation of Peace and Good Order and the Safety of Individuals and Private Property." Signed by John Knickerbacker, Isaac D. Fonda & sixty six others.

In line with this declaration is the following letter, issued early in 1776 by Col. John Knickerbacker to all company commanders of the 14th Albany Co. Regiment, of which he had been placed in command:

"Schactikook, May 30, 1776.—Captain John Snyder, or the next Commanding Officer at Tomhanick. Dear Sir: By order of Gen. TenBroeck, it is now become my duty as we do not know how soon the country may call upon us for military service to earnestly recommend it unto you to use your utmost endeavour with the Company under your command, as well as officers as privates, that they shall pay due obedience and strictly observe the rules and orders for regulating the militia of the Colony of New York, recommended by the Provincial Congress the 22nd day of August and the 20th day of December last; and in particular, the 6th, 7th and 8th sections of said rules and orders. If you or any of your officers have not the printed rules, they may be furnished them by applying unto Mathew



Visher, esq., secretary of the committee for the city and county of Albany. And also I desire that you furnish me with a list of the company under your command by the 5th day of June next, and inform me in what manner the men are equipped as to arms, ammunition and accoutrements. I am your most truly humble servant,

John Knickerbacker."

These papers testify to the Knickerbacker share in the days of travail which were to bring forth a Republic.

No Americans had inherited a more thoroughly Republican spirit than those whose fathers had come from the land of William the Silent.

This is J. F. Knickerbacker's account of his great grandfather: "He was engaged in several of the Indian wars of the Colony and was attached to the staff of Lord Howe in the expedition against Ticonderoga in 1758. He was Commissioned Colonel October 20, 1775, and fought under General Arnold at the Battle of Saratoga where he was wounded in the right arm. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1792 and died August 16th, 1802."

The present register of the Dutch church at Schaghticoke begins with the date of marriage of Col. Knickerbacker taken from some older book saying that he was married by Rev. Theo. Frielinghuysen and that his wife was the daughter of Col. Claes Fonda. No military record higher than that of sergeant seems attached to the name of Claes Fonda, but he was Constable in Albany in 1706 and High Constable the following year, so perhaps "Col." should read "Con." Of Rebecca Fonda the church record states that her life was full of "good works and almsdeeds which she did." The stones of both these excellent people are in good order over their graves in the family graveyard at Schaghticoke, close to a quiet road which is too far from the center of things to be much of a thoroughfare.

The Dutch Bible of Col. Johannes Knickerbacker with records written in by himself, is now safely deposited in the N. Y. State Library at Albany. The twin daughters whose names are inscribed therein as born in 1754 were buried according to



the list of burials of the Dutch church at Albany, the one March 4, 1756, and the other October 2, 1757.

Occasionally the real estate transactions of Col. Knickerbacker and those of his son, who until his father's death in 1802 wrote his name "John Knickerbacker, Jr.," are confused. In 1753 (Dec. 11), for instance, when Johannis Knickerbacker, Jr., is said to have made application for a piece of woodland of about 20 morgans lying "within the bounds of Schagkook along the river adjoining the land of his brother Harme Knickerbacker," for which he agrees to pay to the City of Albany £.20. (Mun. Col., Vol. I, pp. 85-7.) At this date the "Junior" was only two years old.

Later will be presented an agreement of the two Knickerbackers, father and son, with the Albany Common Council, which would seem to indicate that they purchased a release from the perpetual lease clause which encumbered their property.

We have now reached the record of John, only son of Johannes Knickerbacker, who in his long life (1751-1827) reaped the benefits which settled down over the land after the Revolution and gave the people a chance to prosper after more than a century of intermittent warfare.

The hopes not only of his parents, but of his childless uncle Hermen as well, were centred in John Knickerbacker, Jr. He was given every advantage of education and contemplated the study of the law, if he had not already begun to read it, when at the age of eighteen he inherited his uncle Hermen's old Knickerbacker mansion and its broad acres. The next year he married Elizabeth Winne and soon settled down to the care of his estate. Elizabeth Winne was at the time of her marriage scarcely seventeen. This couple lived together fifty-seven years and had fourteen children, eleven of whom survived them. Elizabeth was the daughter of Captain William Winne of Albany and his wife, Maria De Wandelaer.

In 1770 "Elizabeth Johs Knickerbacker, Jr.," occupied Pew No. 19 in the women's seats of the Albany Dutch church.

In this same year (1770) John Knickerbacker, Jr., only nineteen years of age, but already married and in possession of the estate of his uncle Hermen, made the remarkable agreement with



the Albany Common Council that he would entertain the whole of the Common Council whenever they saw fit to hold a meet- for their convenience at Schaghticoke for a generous considera- tion. At a meeting of the Corporation held at Schaghticoke on Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1770, it was resolved to grant "to Joh<sup>s</sup>. Knickerbacker all the land which has not heretofor been sold or released by the Corporation at Albany lying on the east side and adjoyning to Hudson's River within the following bounds viz: Beginning at a marked White Oak tree standing on the northeast corner of a parcell of Land of him the sd Joh<sup>s</sup>. Knicker- backer lying near the river and to run from the sd Oak tree westerly along the sd parcell to the river then southerly along the River to the southerly bounds of the Land released by the sd Corporation to Lewis Van Antwerp, then easterly along sd Van Antwerp's Land to the land heretofor released to John Knicker- backer, then southerly along the western bounds of the sd men- tioned land to the southwest corner thereof, then easterly along the sd mentioned land to the edge of the first hill there, then Northerly along the edge of said hill to opposite the sd Oake Tree the place where it first began, and then to sd Tree; for which the sd Knickerbacker is to find the said Corporation and their Successors with Meet, Drink and Lodging once a year at his House at Schactacock." (Mun. Col., Vol. I., p. 215.)

The next year in accordance with this resolution an Inden- ture was made and concluded on the 8th day of February, 1771, "Between the Mayor, Alderman and Commonalty of the City of Albany of the one part and John Knickerbacker Junior of Schaghticoke of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Mayor, etc., for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings cur- rent money of the Province of New York but more especially for and in consideration of the covenants and agreements here- inafter reserved and continued to be performed and kept on the part and behalf of the said John Knickerbacker Junior have granted, bargained . . . unto the said John Knickerbacker all that certain tract lying and being at Schaghticoke . . . Upon condition . . . that the said John Knickerbacker his heirs and assigns shall and will well and truly, from time to time and at all times ever hereafter during the continuance of this grant find, supply and provide the said Mayor, Recorder,



Aldermen and Commonalty of the said City of Albany . . . or any committee they may send to Schaghticoke at his house at Schaghticoke . . . during their or any of their stay with sufficient meat, drink and lodgng for men and horses . . . and keep their horses with good grain hay or good pasture . . . (signed by) Abr<sup>m</sup>. C. Cuyler, Mayor in the presence of Peter P. Schuyler and John J. Bleecker."

This grant was for three hundred and fifty-nine acres.

In 1774 (August 12th) the Common Council met "at the House of John Knickerbacker at Schackook." In 1780 a resolution of the Council reads: "Resolved that a Board be opened at the house of John Knickerbacker Jr at Schaghticoke on Wednesday the 20th inst." (Mun. Albany Col., Vol. I., pp. 264, 309.)

In 1782 an item of the Albany city records reads: "This day agreed with John Knickerbacker Jur Esqr for the rents due and to become due on his Farm at Schaghtekocke for £.351. £.300. thereof to be paid in cash and to execute a Bond for the residue payable the first day of May next. Resolved that the clerk draw the release of the said rents and bonds." (Mun. Col., Vol. I., p. 340.)

On June 22 of this same year it was resolved by the Common Council "that the Public seal be affixed to a Deed of this Board to John Knickerbacker Junr for the acquittance of an annual rent. Also that the Deed from this Board to John Knickerbacker be executed in like manner for an annual rent of and that the said several deeds be entered on record.

Statement of the *consideration money* for which the above deeds were executed:

1. John Knickerbacker Junr	£.322;1
2. John Knickerbacker Sr.	£. 70;4

£.392;5

which was settled as follows to wit;

Leanard Gansvort gave us Cr on bond for	£.240;6;0
The treasurer received this day	22;1;6

£.262;7;6





Copied from original, painted 1805

HON. JOHN KNICKERBACKER AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH WINNE



Knickerbacker Junr gave his obligation pay 1, August	
for	78;12;6
Also for £.51 pay 1, May next	51;0;0
	_____
	£.392;0;0

This I take to mean that the two Knickerbackers bought a release from the yearly rental demanded by the city of Albany on their land and thus owned their land clear of any lien.

It will be observed that the value of the son's land far exceeded that of his father.

John Knickerbacker, Junr., in the Revolution was a private in the 14th Albany Co. Regiment of which his father was Colonel. (Robert's N. Y. in the Revolution, p. 235.) In 1791 he was second Major in Col. John W. Groesbeck's Regiment. (Mil. Min. of Council of Appointment, p. 197.)

He was a member of the N. Y. Legislature in 1796 and 1802.

After his father's death in 1802 he became the most wealthy of all the Knickerbackers and his long life of seventy-five years was spent in peace and prosperity. His wife, Elizabeth Winne, died Nov. 10, 1826, and exactly to the day and hour a year later, died John Knickerbacker Junior. A picture of him and his wife painted on wood is still in the possession of the family and represents him, as a man of fine presence. In the corner of this picture is the following inscription:—"Hon. John Knickerbacker and his wife, Elizabeth Winne; Sittings taken the 20th day of April 1805 in their 54th year of their age. By Corset Schipper." At the marriage of their youngest son Abraham in 1823, there was a family gathering in the homestead consisting of their four sons and their wives, their seven daughters and their husbands and so many grandchildren, that the family historian rashly asserts, that at this time there were one hundred of the descendants of John and Elizabeth Knickerbacker gathered around them. Under the heading "Three Knickerbacker Bibles" will be found the names and dates of birth of the children of this worthy pair written in their father's hand in his Dutch Bible.



## Will of John Knickerbacker

In the name of God. Amen. I, John Knickerbacker of Schagtekook in the county of Renselaer, farmer, being of good health and of sound mind and memory, Blessed be God; Therefore make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following;—First I give my soul into the hands of Almighty God from whom it came hoping through the merits of Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness for all my sins and as to the wordly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me will I give, devise and bequeath in the following order;—first; it is my will and I do hereby order that all my past debts and funeral charges shall be paid as soon as decent and as conveniently can be done after my demise. Second; All my estate in the county of Renselaer except my mills and mill lott I give, devise and bequeath unto my four sons namely;—William, Harmen, John and Abraham and unto their heirs and assigns forever Divided in the following order;—that is to say what is called De Wandelaer's farm to consist of all the land conveyed unto me by Peter De Wandelaer Deceased except what is called the Newland together with lot number fifty four lying on the hill west of my old farm and must extend west until it takes in one hundred and eight acres, so that the whole of this farm contains three hundred and eighteen acres; the farm I now live on the west side of Tamhenick's Creek together with lot number fifty five and also what is called Hanksbergh so as the whole contains three hundred and eighteen acres; also to be one farm what is called De Ronda's farm together with lots number fifty two and fifty three which must extend also west until they take in one hundred and eighteen acres, so as the whole farm contains three hundred and eighteen acres; what is called the River farm joins on the North River and is computed about four hundred acres and the rents due the Corporation of Albany shall be Proportioned among the three old farms; the farm I now live on shall



be considered three hundred pounds better on account of the buildings thereon which must be paid to the other three farms. The lands aforesaid are described on a map made by Evert Van Allen now in my possession. The aforesaid division is my will and shall stand good that my four sons aforesaid shall each take a farm as aforesaid and my oldest son William to have the first choice and my silver tankard.

Third; the remainder of all my estate both real and personal wherever it is or can be found I give, devise and bequeath unto my seven daughters namely,—Rebecka, Maria, Dircke, Anetie, Elizabeth, Nelly and Katline and unto their heirs and assigns forever and my will is that those of my children that are minors or unmarried and not educated shall receive the same privileges and out-sets as those have received that have married so that to Abraham be made up what each of the other sons have had and to my daughters Elizabeth, Nelly and Tyne be made good what my other daughters have had, so that they are as nearly equalized as can be.

Fourth; it is my will and I do hereby ordain that my beloved wife, Elizabeth shall be and remain full mistress of all my estates both real and personal during (the time she remains) my widow and (she) together with my Beloved sons to be executors of this my will and testament and if she should happen to marry after my decease then (for) her to render all my estate as is ordained by this last will and I hereby revoke, disannul and destroy all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made and allow this to be my last will and testament this 26th day of September 1807.

(signed) John Knickerbacker

In the Presence of  
James Pattison  
James Pattison Jr.  
Tho. Pattison.

An account of the four sons of John Knickerbacker, Jr., will round out this sketch of the Knickerbackers at Schaghticoke.



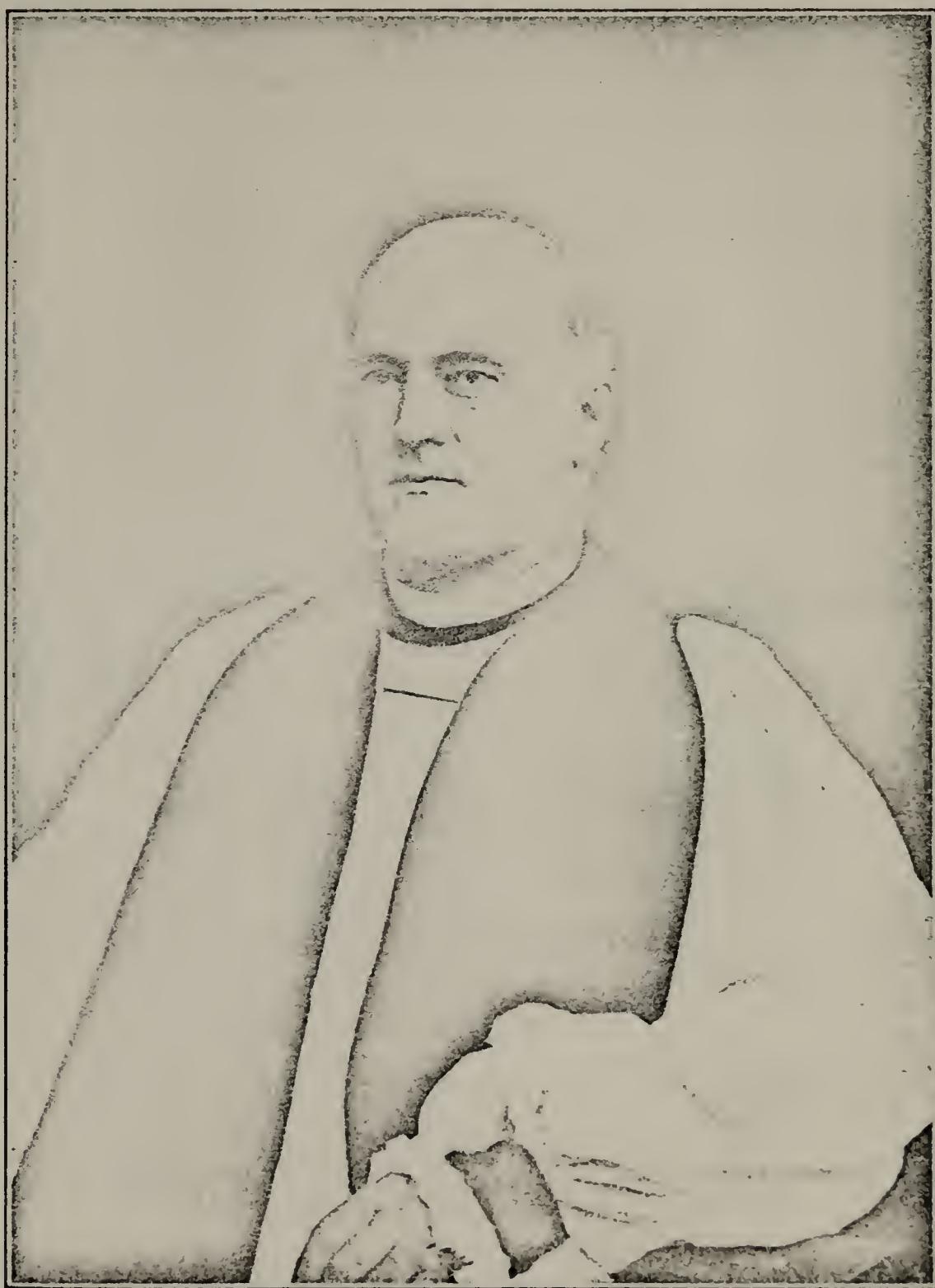
coke; to which will be added the names of their seven daughters and those of the men they married.

*First*—William Winne Knickerbacker, married (1) Diricke Van Veghten, daughter of Derick Van Veghten of Schaghticoke May 19, 1792; she died November 15, 1807. (2) Eve Viele, daughter of Abraham Viele and Annetje Knickerbacker; she died March 29, 1865. William died July 11, 1846. He and both his wives are buried in the Knickerbacker graveyard at Schaghticoke. He had ten children; their names were (as recorded by J. F. Knickerbacker before 1882):

1. Derick, b. November 9, 1793; m. Anna, daughter of Gen. Simon De Ridder, February 13, 1815 (one son).
2. Elizabeth Winne, b. February 10, 1797; m. Jacob Groesbeck.
3. Rebecca, b. June 18, 1801; m. John Wesley Groesbeck, May 13, 1824.
4. Alida, b. May 25, 1804.
5. Maria, b. Oct. 21, 1807; m. Gerret Vandenberg, February 14, 1827.
6. John, b. March 8, 1809; m. Susan, daughter of Gen. Simon De Ridder, January 8, 1834 (Saratoga church record, says: "at her mothers,") John died July 14, 1840. (Two sons; Simon Knickerbacker, m. Frances A. Somers at Schuylerville, January 12, 1857.)
7. Abraham Viele, b. March 30, 1811; m. — (one son).
8. Herman, b. November 20, 1813; m. (1) Sarah, daughter of John William Groesbeck; (2) Clarissa, daughter of Seth Seeley (two sons and one daughter).
9. William, b. Dec. 18, 1815; m. Adeline, daughter of John William Groesbeck, January 15, 1839; she died November 24, 1874. William died in 1900 (one son).
10. Anna, b. June 17, 1818; m. — Sherman.

William Winne Knickerbacker's military record is as follows:—1793, Lieutenant; 1797, Captain; 1803, Second Major; 1808, Major; 1814-1817, Lieutenant Colonel of 45th Regiment Rensselaer Co. Militia. (Mil. Min. Council of Appointment, pp. 262, 381, 647, 991, 1518-67, 1800.) He is said to have been at the invasion of Plattsburg in 1814.





DAVID BUEL KNICKERBACKER  
Bishop of Indiana



*Second*—Herman, who married three times: (1) Arianie, daughter of Abraham A. Lansing and Elsie Van Rensselaer, October 10, 1801. (2) Rachel, daughter of John Hermen Wendell and Cathalina Van Benthuyzen, December 6, 1814; she died July 31, 1823. (3) Mary, daughter of David Buel and Rachel McNeil, July 20, 1826. He had fourteen children; their names were (as recorded by J. F. Knickerbacker):

1. Abraham Lansing, b. September 23, 1802; m. Maria Bryan (two sons and two daughters).
2. Elizabeth Winne, b. May 10, 1805; m. Myron Ticknor.
3. Elsie Gansevoort, b. October 7, 1806; m. Edwin Smith.
4. Catharine Van Rensselaer, b. May 2, 1808; m. Morris S. Van Buskirk, Sept. 22, 1831 (descendants).
5. Rebecca Bradshaw, b. September 1, 1813; m. John Brown Hoyt, October 10, 1832.
6. Arietta Lansing, b. Nov. 3, 1815; m. John B. Kellogg; d. November 30, 1884; buried at Schaghticoke.
7. Catalina Wendell, b. April 11, 1817; m. John W. Griffeth; d. August 28, 1855 (descendants).
8. Maria Van Veghten, b. September 9, 1819; m. William P. Griswold.
9. John Wendell, b. March 18, 1821; d. March 18, 1825.
10. Rachel Wendell, b. November 9, 1822; never married; d. 1900; buried at Schaghticoke.
11. Sarah Bird, b. April 18, 1827; m. Rev. Samuel M. Haskins, May 29, 1850; d. Sept. 24, 1856.
12. Herman, b. May 6, 1830; m. Jane M., daughter of Oliver Hutchinson, September 24, 1856 (several children).
13. Charlotte Buel, b. February 1, 1832; m. William Chamberlain, October 2, 1856.
14. David Buel, b. February 24, 1833; m. Sarah Moore, July 22, 1856 (no children). He was admitted to Holy Orders in June, 1856, and died Episcopal Bishop of Indiana at Indianapolis, December 31, 1894.

This Herman Knickerbacker was he who called himself facetiously, "Prince of the Tribe of Knickerbacker," and whom Washington Irving fancifully referred to as "my cousin, the Congressman."



Of him the Albany Annals of 1855 has this to say under date of January 30th:

"Herman Knickerbacker died at Schaghticoke aged 75. He read law in Albany with John V. Henry, and is remembered rather as a companionable man than as a scholar or a statesman. Judge Knickerbacker's ancestors emigrated from the Province of Brabant during the political changes consequent upon the death of William the Second, Prince of Orange, in the middle of the seventeenth century. Herman was born July 27th, 1779, being the second son of John Knickerbacker of Schaghticoke and grandson of Col. John Knickerbacker of the French and Revolutionary wars. Having been educated for the bar as a pupil of John V. Henry and afterwards of John Bird he commenced the practice of his profession at an early age, taking immediately a prominent place in it, as well as in political life, for which he was well suited. Being a decided Federalist and possessed of wealth and great personal influence, he was soon chosen to fill important offices, and when less than thirty years of age was elected to the United States Congress under the administration of President Madison. He was afterwards a member of the New York Legislature, then Judge of the County of Rensselaer, until the infirmities of age forced him to retire from public life. In the office of Supervisor, which he held for many years, his influence was often useful to the City of Troy, particularly in having it established as the shire town, which except for his exertions would have been given to the village of Lansingburgh.

"In social life Judge Knickerbacker always filled a brilliant place. Bred from his childhood to associate with some of the most distinguished men in an age remarkable for its high-toned courtesy and having the control of a large family of slaves, his manners acquired that blending of suavity with dignity peculiar to those accustomed to early intercourse with the world and the early habit of command. This, with his generous hospitality and jovial humor, won for him the popular sobriquet of "Prince of Schaghticoke" and surrounded him with numerous friends whom, says the historian, he "received with open arms and surrounded them with wonderful loving kindness." These to their credit did not desert him in his age and misfortune but ever with



a kindness he well deserved, gathered about him to console his grief and conceal his faults. With him has passed away nearly the last representative of his class—the old Dutch gentlemen whose memory, long after their places shall have been filled and their language forgotten, will live green among the lovers of hospitality and humor. A characteristic anecdote is told of him while he was a member of Congress; being asked the difference between the Dutch Reformed tenets and those of the Presbyterians and not willing to acknowledge his ignorance of the subject he replied naively that he believed one sung short metre and the other long." (Munsell's Annals of Albany, Vol. VII, pp. 316, 317, 318.)

To this sympathetic summing up of "Prince" Knickerbacker's character and career should be added the oft-repeated story of the practical joke played by him upon the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Troy as it is told by his nephew, General Egbert L. Viele;—"Having erected a spacious residence for himself some distance from the homestead he decided to become the entertainer of the Mayor and Common Council of Troy as an offset to the festivities (entertainment of the Mayor and Council of Albany) at the paternal home. On the arrival of these gentlemen with their appetites sharpened by a long drive, he pretended to have forgotten the day and to be perfectly unprepared to receive them,—allowing his guests while suffering the keen pangs of hunger to overhear him in an apparent discussion with his butler, as to how to make one pair of chickens suffice for so many mouths. The consternation—not to say rage of the guests may be imagined. A sudden relief came when the dining room doors opened upon a most sumptuous repast and a hearty enjoyment of the practical joke was in order."

In 1801 (January 26) a new Troop of Cavalry was raised in Rensselaer Co. in the Second Squadron of the Third Regiment of Cavalry. Of this Squadron Herman Knickerbacker was made Captain. In 1810 he was promoted to the rank of Major of the Squadron which was in Col. Samuel McChesney's Regiment. In 1818 he was commissioned Colonel of the Third Regiment of Rensselaer Co. Cavalry. (Mil. Min. of Council of Appointment of N. Y. State, pp. 553, 730, 1167, 1943.)



*Third.* John, who also married three times. (1) Rachel, daughter of Nanning Hermense Vischer; (2) Sarah, daughter of Charles Coit; (3) Caroline, daughter of Thomas Chester. (Six children; given according to the J. F. Knickerbacker record.)

1. Nanning Vischer, b. ——; m. —— (two daughters).
2. Rebecca Fonda, b. ——, m. Solon Grout.
3. Margaret Bull, b. ——; m. Henry T. Walbridge.
4. John, b. ——, d. unmarried April 24, 1856.
5. Jane, b. ——; m. William Cunningham.
6. Thomas Adams, b. ——; m. Helen L. Jones, June 25, 1862. (Six children; two living.) Lives at Troy, N. Y.

John Knickerbacker lived at Waterford, N. Y., and was President of the local bank.

*Fourth.* Abraham, married twice; (1) Laura, daughter of Joseph Sturges and Margaret Foster, January 2, 1823; (2) Mary Anne, daughter of Dr. Moses Hale and Mary Nazro, June 27, 1828. He died March 11, 1869. (Five children; record as given by J. F. Knickerbacker.)

1. Joseph Foster, b. February 18, 1824; never married; d. November 16, 1882. (Tombstone at Schaghticoke.)
2. John Hale, b. March 16, 1829; never married; d. June 17, 1858.
3. Mary Elizabeth, b. February 26, 1830, d. July 30, 1846 (9?), just after graduating from the Emma Willard School at Troy. On her gravestone is written: "How many hopes lie buried here."
4. Richard, b. March 15, 1831; d. October 6, 1833.
5. Henry, b. January 25, 1833, m. Helen Mar, daughter of Isaiah Blood and Jane Gates, September 16, 1857. He is dead and so are his two sons, leaving no descendants. He was head of the Banking House of H. Knickerbacker & Co., 25 Broad St., N. Y. City. At the present time (1916) in the N. Y. Telephone book "H. Knickerbacker & Co." leads a long line of "Knickerbocker" Corporations.

Abraham Knickerbacker served in the Rensselaer Co. Militia in 1815 as Adjutant in his brother William's regiment; in 1817 as





KATLYNE KNICKERBACKER (VIELE)  
1792-1837



Lieutenant and in 1818 as Captain. (Mil. Min. Council of Appointment, pp. 1567, 1801, 1892.)

Joseph Foster Knickerbacker, only child of his first wife, says of Abraham Knickerbacker: "He occupied the family mansion in Old Schaghticoke. He was noted for his hospitality and uprightness of character."

Of his brother John Hale, Joseph says: "He was an accomplished scholar and antiquary."

From his father's death in 1869 to his own death by accident in N. Y. City in 1882, Joseph, a kindly, dreamy man, afflicted from birth with a deformity of the arms whch however never interfered with his penmanship, kept bachelor hall in the homestead. He expressed his gentle musings in a volume printed in 1876 entitled: "Vision of the Arch of Truth and other Poems."

The seven daughters of Johannes Knickerbacker, Jr., married as follows:

1. Rebecca Fonda, m. John Bradshaw (son of John Bradshaw and Mary Wool who came from Antrim Co. Ireland in 1740 and settled at the Half Moon) August 5, 1792. She d. February 22, 1834.
2. Maria De Wandelaer, m. John Van Veghten, May 21, 1794.
3. Derica Van Antwerp, m. Evert Van Allen, August 3, 1801; d. December 21, 1833.
4. Anna Viele, m. John L. DeForest, February 27, 1805; d. April 25, 1854.
5. Elizabeth Winne, m. John William Groesbeck, August 20, 1808. She died April 30, 1849.
6. Helena, m. Jacob Ten Eycke Pruyn, July 20, 1816.
7. Katlyne, m. John Lodevicus Viele, November 18, 1810. She d. September 16th, 1837. John Lodevicus Viele, son of Lodevicus Viele and Eva Toll, d. October 19, 1832.

In a little book to which I have before referred, called "Bradshaw Memorial," a characteristic anecdote of John Knickerbacker, Jr., is thus related:

"Across the Hudson east from Half Moon and Stillwater lies the Dutch town of Schaghticoke. The settlers on the west side were largely of English or Yankee blood and no love was



lost between them and their Dutch neighbors. So it was with little pleasure that John Knickerbacker saw the young Irishman, John Bradshaw from Half Moon come to woo Rebecca, the eldest of his seven daughters. When he finally gave a reluctant consent he took care to brand all the furniture of the bride's ample "setting out" with his own initials, "J. K.," in case of any future rascality on the part of his new son-in-law! But he learnt in after years to like and trust him as well as any of the seven. Rebecca possessed in a marked degree the typical Dutch-traits of thrift, neatness and a sharp tongue which could scold in two languages. A part of her dower was two slaves, a boy and a girl. The boy was a ne'er do well and absconded after a time; the girl was the faithful nurse of the children as long as she lived and I have heard my father say that they loved their black 'Mammy' as well as their white one." ("Aunt Betsey"—Mrs. Elizabeth Fairbanks—probably great granddaughter of John Knickerbacker.)

The record is ended. There are no longer Knickerbackers at Schaghticoke. Their work is done. Each Knickerbacker in his generation had aided in the upbuilding of New York State. First they were progressive pioneers, afterwards constant defenders of her soil from invidious foes. They all maintained happy and law-abiding homes and raised large families of stalwart sons and daughters. Each in turn promoted the principles of religion, first by lending active aid to the establishing of a place of worship—according to the tenets of the Reformed Dutch church of Holland—in their locality and then by ever after supporting that church in the offices of Elders and Deacons.

Different members served in the State Legislature, one was in Congress and had a seat on the Bench.

This family returned to New York State three-fold in the conservative influence of well-spent lives, the welcome accorded to their emigrant ancestor in the seventeenth century.

#### The Knickerbacker Mansion at Old Schaghticoke and Other Schaghticoke Knickerbacker Homes

There were at least three different Knickerbocker homes at Schaghticoke: That of Col. William Winne Knickerbacker on



what is now known as the Barnett place; that of "Prince" Knickerbacker on Schaghticoke Hill, and the original family mansion at Old Schaghticoke. This last is over one hundred years old and replaces one which was burnt down.

In a letter dated Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., March 22, 1916, Prof. Howard J. Bunker gives a few words of personal reminiscence:—"Besides the old Knickerbacker place, William Knickerbacker lived in a house some half mile or so to the east. I could go to the place but at this distance could hardly describe its location very closely. I remember him well.

"Judge Knickerbacker lived at Schaghticoke Hill by the creek. The orginal house was burnt down, the present one is since his time. . . . Directly across the road is where John Evans now lives; he and his father before him have owned the Knickerbacker Mills for the last fifty years or more. . . . My father and Bishop Knickerbacker, son of the Judge, were schoolmates. I remember meeting the Bishop once when I was a boy."

Several accounts of the old homestead have been printed—all more or less flowery. One says it was erected on the site of the old fort, another recounts that it was built of bricks made in Holland, etc. I have not been able to verify these assertions.

The house as it is now has lost much if its picturesqueness; an excellent but modern slate roof has replaced the original one of quaint curves which was as one has said "pyramidally shaped like that of the venerable Dutch church that formerly stood in the middle of State Street in the City of Albany." It however still stands impressively among its old trees, surrounded by its broad acres with its background still filled in by the "Tree of Welfare." Were it differently situated it would be well worth being bought by the State or some patriotic society and preserved as a museum of Dutch and Indian relics, but to the casual visitor it seems in its absolute isolation to be as the caretaker's daughter observed "at the end of everything."

This account by General Egbert L. Viele taken from Harper's Magazine for December, 1876, relates how the homestead was in his time:

"Here (at Schaghticoke) the waters of the Hoosic and the Tanhennick meet in a circular valley surrounded on nearly all



sides by high hills. The soil is exceedingly fertile and the landscape exceedingly beautiful. In the midst of this valley stands the mansion of the Knickerbackers. The principal entrance is reached through an avenue of ancient trees, time-worn and scarred, that climb high above the roof, like watch towers overlooking the plain. The vine-covered porch with its hospitable seat on either side, welcomes the vistor and the huge brass knocker on the upper leaf of the old-fashioned oaken door summons the cheerful host.

"The main hall is in itself a room. Quaint settees and an antique bookcase with rare old engravings on the wall, constitute the furnishings, while over all an air of quiet comfort and repose pervades. The principal staircase is in the second hall, separated from the first by folding doors. On either side of the main hall are the reception and drawing rooms while the dining room and library open into the rear hall. In the olden time the dining room contained the history-telling fire place with its tiled front and sides representing scenes and events in Bible history. . . . These crude delineations were well calculated to impress the great truths of the Bible upon those who gathered in the winter evenings around the glowing embers. . . . Beyond the dining room in the large wing are the kitchen and servants departments.

"The great cellar which extends under the entire building, was the slaves quarters in winter. In summer they lived in cabins for the most part, but for greater comfort during the extreme cold weather and also as a haven of security against attack by the French and their Indian allies they resorted to this cellar whose huge open fire place still remains.

"If the bricks could speak how many marvelous conceptions from the half-developed Ethiopian brain could they relate. Wonderful feats of purely imaginary valor, unearthly tales of ghosts and goblins, all intermingled with that vein of quaint humor which the African with his rare powers of imitation, so readily imbibed from his Dutch master. All the slaves in the State of New York were emancipated in 1727 but many of them remained at the old homestead until death removed them from it, their attachment to home and the members of the family remaining undiminished to the last moment."



The subjoined poem was written for the Knickerbocker Magazine after a visit to Schaghticoke:

### Schaghticoke and the Knickerbockers

By MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY

Oh vale of peace! oh haunt serene!

    Oh hill encircled shades!

No footsteps rude, or fiery neigh

Of iron steed o'er graded way

    Your sylvan steep invades.

The red-browed Indian's planted name

    Your blended waters bore,\*

Though they who erst that baptism gave

Beneath oblivion's blackening wave

    Have sunk to rise no more.

Here clad in ancient honor dwelt

The Knickerbocker race.

And wisely ruled in hall and bower,

And held their old manorial power

    With firm and honest grace.

Then gatherings grand of social joy

    The ancestral mansion knew;

While roof and rafter shook with mirth

And hospitality had birth,

    Which still is warm and true.

So may the Knickerbocker line

    Their prosperous harvest sow,

Nor ever lack a noble heir

Their dynasty and name to bear

    While mingling waters flow!

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\*Schaghticoke is the Indian name for "mingling waters."



## V.

### Concerning Family Traditions and Family History of the Knickerbacker Family

There have appeared from time to time in print articles on the family of Knickerbacker. These articles often include as facts certain unproven statements concerning the pro-American history of this family and relate traditions of the early life of the American ancestor and of his father. So confusing and misleading are some of these that a member of the family recently wrote me: "There are so many points under dispute that I am at a loss what to believe." This volume has been compiled primarily as an attempt to explain these traditions and speculations and to sift out what may be safely accepted according to known facts.

Napoleon is said to be responsible for the expression that "history is accepted fiction." Even in family history is this so likely to be true that he who would constitute himself a stickler for proof or at least for probability in family reminiscences must be prepared to be at first frowned on. Nevertheless to lay open error as well as to accentuate truth must always be the duty of those who come across it.

In 1908-9 there appeared in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record a Genealogy of the Knickerbocker Family by Dr. William B. Van Alstyne. This is an accurate work, but of limited extent. It did not at first sight appear to be correct as it differed considerably in the records of the first generations from those written out and left by the family historian, Joseph F. Knickerbacker of Schaghticoke. These records written in Mr. Knickerbacker's own hand are in my possession. In response to a letter asking Dr. Van Alstyne if he had seen these family records and also the charts of General E. L. Viele (1875) and of Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker (1890) he replied that he had and that "they tormented me till I put them out of the way and depended on church entries and other



sources of information." A subsequent comparison of Dr. Van Alstyne's dates with those of the public records proved them to be correct.

Dr. Van Alstyne says in the introduction to his Knickerbacker articles (N. Y. Gen. and Biog. Record, Jan., 1908, p. 33): "Traditions are current in the family concerning its origin and history in Holland but these the writer not finding leisure to verify has omitted."

As exhaustively as possible these omissions will be here considered. The family historian, as has been mentioned, was Joseph Foster Knickerbacker (1824-1882), who lived for many years in the Knickerbacker homestead at Schaghticoke, N. Y. Owing to physical handicap he had led a secluded life and had spent his leisure in composing essays, poetry and local or family history. In his genealogical work he was assisted by his brother, John Hale Knickerbacker, who died in 1858. This is the account of the family origin left by Joseph Foster Knickerbacker:

"John Van Berghen (Knickerbacker) was the third son of Godfrey Van Berghen, Count Van Grimberger, and Honorine Van Horne, his wife. He was a captain in the navy of the Netherlands and went in that service to Brazil. He was afterwards at home under Count William Frederic of Nassau. After the death of William, Prince of Orange, he went to North America, A. D. 1652, and died in New York June 18, 1656. His wife was Julianna Van Marnix, daughter of Rutgar Van Marnix, Lord of Botselaer. She died in 1668. They had two sons, Gerrit, who died in Antwerp, and Hermen, called Jason. Hermen Jason, second Knickerbacker and second son of John Van Berghen Knickerbacker, was born at Frielen (Friesland?) March 18, 1648, and accompanied his parents to America when very young. He was placed in the navy and severely wounded at the Battle of Solebay, A. D. 1672. After this he returned to America and married, January 3, 1678, Elizabeth, daughter of Myndert Hermens Van der Bogert, a surgeon in the Colony. He owned land at Albany, in Dutchess County and at Half Moon, Saratoga County. He moved to Schaghticoke in 1690. He died April 2, 1721. His wife was born June, 1651; she died April 15, 1723."



I write this out in full because this is the account which has been generally accepted.

The first fact to be noted and examined is that the father of Hermen Jansen is called "Captain John Van Berghen." Why Van Berghen? There is a Captain Jan Bergen to be found in the Records of New Amsterdam, a well-known skipper, who brought over several ships containing emigrants between the years 1660-65; but close examination does not disclose any connection in time or place with him and Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker. The date of his supposed death in New Amsterdam in 1652 puts "Captain John Van Berghen" back into the time when the colony was small and it would seem as though if he had been there some trace of him would remain. The Knickerbacker Coat of Arms on the chart of Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker may answer the question for he calls it there the *Van Berghen Coat of Arms*. This gives rise to still another question: What is the Van Berghen Coat of Arms doing on a Knickerbacker Family Chart? The only reply to this is that the Coat of Arms seems to correspond with a Van Berghen pedigree going back to the thirteenth century which we are asked to accept without any proof as the pedigree of the Knickerbacker family and of which the passage I have quoted is the connecting link. We are told that John Hale Knickerbacker went to Holland and sought there for the origin of his family and it appears probable that some unskillful, if not unscrupulous, genealogist found in a book of heraldry the Van Berghen lineage and Coat of Arms and fitted it in to the family tradition which John Hale Knickerbacker furnished him with. There is nothing in the name of our ancestor that would indicate any Van Berghen connection. We must keep to the names given him on the records if we would hope to reach the truth concerning him. This pedigree starts off with a certain Geraldus born in 1287 and comes down the centuries with many high-sounding names which connect the house of Knickerbacker with the house of Nassau and the family of the Count of Egmont in unproved statements such as seem most unlikely to be true, till one is fairly puzzled to see how such a connection could be accepted by intelligent people. Yet members of the Knickerbacker family have copied out and treas-



ured this pedigree—on the face of it so clearly improbable—as gospel truth, and these will doubtless at first condemn this repudiation as iconoclasm. So remarkable is this pedigree that if there was any truth in it it should be accompanied with tangible proof. It cannot but be strongly suspected that this Van Berghen record was found in some printed genealogy of a family of the Netherlands down to Captain John Van Berghen and his son Gerret—died in Antwerp in 1665—and that to this the name of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker was added as a second son by some untrustworthy Hollander on whom John Hale Knickerbacker pinned his faith.

It cannot be too emphatically stated that there is no known connection between the family of Van Berghen and that of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker. This will clear the way for better evidence.

In Joseph F. Knickerbacker's account of his ancestor he says that he was in the Dutch navy previous to coming to this country. In the account of the naval services both of Hermen Jansen and of his father, Captain Jan, there seems to be a nucleus of truth. It seems to be quite apart from the wonderful pedigree and was probably the family tradition which John Hale Knickerbacker took with him to Holland as the clue to work on. Of this more later.

Hermen Jansen's wife was Lisbet Bogert, but she was not the daughter of "Myndert Hermens Van der Bogert, a surgeon in the Colony." That surgeon's name was Hermen Myndertse Van der Bogert and he met with a violent death in 1647-8. Lisbet Bogert was born in 1659 or later. (See Dutchess Co. Census for 1714.) The confusion concerning her paternity was due to an error of Pearson's. (Gen. of the First Settlers of Albany, p. 121.) Not only the probable date of her birth but the names of her children and of their sponsors in baptism point to her as the daughter of Jan Louve Bogert and of Cornelia Evertse, his wife. (See Riker's Revised His. of Harlem, p. 448.)

The place of Hermen Jansen's birth is given by Mr. Knickerbacker as "Frielen"—Friesland and that is in line with the Van Bergen theory, as the Van Bergen family appears to have come from the Province of Friesland.



As for our ancestor, he is over and over again spoken of in the records as "Van Bommel." Hermen Jansen could not have owned land in Schaghticoke in 1690 for at that date Hendrick Van Rensselaer was the only white man who had any claim to land there. Hermen Jansen never lived nor owned land in Schaghticoke. His eldest son Johannes was the first Knickerbacker of Schaghticoke. It is likely that Hermen Jansen, according to Dutch custom, named his eldest daughter after his mother, (his second daughter was named Cornelia after her mother's mother), that would make his mother's name to have been Jannetje, and the Lady Julianna must go with the rest of the Van Bergen outfit. It seems hard to have to acknowledge that these young brothers—Joseph and John—in their earnest and sincere endeavor to complete their family record accepted without proof presentations which investigation has shown to have been untenable. Inquiry from the best available source of information has established the fact that neither of these brothers left any papers which might shed further light on this subject. Joseph Knickerbacker's account says the ancestor hailed from Friesland and Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker's chart claims that he came from Brabant. Now Friesland is a northern Province of the Netherlands, while Brabant, about 1600, occupied all the central part of the Low Countries. In North Brabant part of the territory called Bommel was situated. The two statements show that there were two traditions.

While there is no proof, there may be according to the history of the day some truth that Hermen Jansen did fight in the navy of the Netherlands. He is proved by the Dutchess Co. Census of 1714 to have been at that time over sixty years of age; he would therefore have been old enough to have taken part in the desperate sea fights of 1672-3.

In Harper's Magazine for December, 1876, appeared an entertaining article on the Knickerbackers by General Egbert L. Viele, whose mother, Katlyne Knickerbacker, was born in the Old Schaghticoke mansion and who as a boy had gone there often from his near-by home at Waterford.

General Viele's account of the family origin both in this article and on his family chart corresponds with that of J. F.



Knickerbacker and indeed I am quite sure, since I have all my father left of family data, that he had, outside of his cousin's narrative, no other source of information to draw from. His chart, which appeared in 1875, is a record of the allied families of Knickerbacker, Schermerhorn and Viele. At the bottom of this chart he calls attention to the fact that the information is necessarily defective and that he had printed it in hopes that more details would be forthcoming. Since then all three families have printed full genealogies. At the head of his Knickerbacker line General Viele writes:—"John Van Berghen Knickerbocker, Captain in the Navy of the Netherlands, married Julianna Van Marnix, daughter of Rutger Van Marnix, Lord of Botselaer." In 1890 Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker, a member of the Dutchess Co. branch, took up the question of family origin and put the results of his investigations into a chart and into an attractive pamphlet. Here also appear the unproven statements with regard to family history which have been so trustfully accepted! On the top of the chart he places the received Knickerbacker Coat of Arms, which he calls the "Van Berghen Coat of Arms." In his narrative he says that the article by General E. L. Viele in Harper's Magazine is the source of his information. Mr. Knickerbacker was at this time 73 years of age. He did most painstaking work. He visited the Knickerbacker house at Schaghticoke where the elder branch was located and he visited a field on the estate of Colonel De Peyster, at Tivoli in Dutchess Co., which had evidently once been in the possession of the Dutchess Co. Knickerbackers and where there had been according to Dutch custom a family graveyard. Here he found the tombstone of Lawrence Knickerbacker, the second son of the ancestor. But this discovery of the Knickerbacker stone was the only really valuable work he did. His chart is imperfect and he even errs, according to the church records, in tracing back his own descent. So all these earnest-hearted men of the house of Knickerbacker have for lack of method in their genealogical labors, cumbered their family history with misleading material which it seems very difficult to get rid of. It is however for us whom they have stimulated, to honor them as pioneers in research.



In monthly Mag. vol. 56  
Dec. 1876, page 43  
for illus. of this  
Coat of Arms.  
A 5.391

### The Coat of Arms

In the parlor of the Knickerbacker mansion at Old Schaghticoke long hung a painting of a Coat of Arms. It is about two feet square and is of the size of the family Coats of Arms which the Dutch used to hang over their pews in the seventeenth century. An examination of this painting seems to confirm it as an ancient one of about that period. This can be gathered from the character of the canvass and of the pigments employed. It consists of a shield surmounted by a lion rampant. On the shield is a lion and three losenges. On the white ribbon below there is *no motto*, although a motto is assigned to this family—"Die Strydt met fortuyn wint." There is a book plate used by the family in recent years consisting of this Coat of Arms with the motto on the ribbon beneath.

Beneath the Coat of Arms in the parlor at Schaghticoke is the name of "Knickerbacker"—stuck on in separate Gothic letters, which is, I am told, a modern addition. On the back of the Coat of Arms is written, if I rightly recall,—"of the seventeenth century."

Nothing authentic is to be found concerning this Coat of Arms except that Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker in 1887 calls it a "Van Berghen Coat of Arms," and he received it and whatever information he had concerning it from the Schaghticoke Knickerbackers. Some evidence should be produced to prove that it was brought over by that soldier of fortune, Hermen Jansen Van Wye kyckacke, or else it would seem part of the Van Berghen myth.



## VI.

### Three Knickerbacker Bibles

The first and most important of these Dutch Bibles was printed in 1714 and has been in the possession of the Knickerbacker family at least since 1721. It is in fair shape but the records are getting dim. Fortunately before they were undecipherable a photograph of all the writing the book contains has been taken and below it will be given. As will appear, on the front cover of the Bible is the signature "J. K. Backer." The comparison of this signature with one to a deed of 1706-7 proves that this Bible was the property of Johannis Hermansen Knickerbacker, who adopted this form of abbreviating his long name. Below his name he has written the record of an unusual freshet which occurred in 1721. Nearly all the other records in this Bible are in the hand of John Knickerbacker, Jun<sup>r</sup>., whose signature to various deeds makes his handwriting easily distinguishable. The record of the death of his wife as well as of his own is in other writing, as is also the record of W. W. Knickerbacker's marriage on back cover. The "Johannes Kneckerbacker Min Bibel" scrawled on the back cover must have been written by Colonel Johannes Knickerbacker, who may have had the Bible and handed it over to his son in 1763 when he bought the Bible of which we tell next. The small letters (though the capitals vary) appear in both Bibles to be in the round chirography of the Revolutionary Colonel. He wrote his name Kneckerbacker. After the death of Johannes Knickerbacker, Junior, this Bible seems to have come into the possession of his youngest daughter, Kathlyne, wife of John L. Viele, and to have been treasured after her death by her daughter Maria Viele, wife of Eustice Whipple. When Maria died without children, her eldest sister, Louisa Caroline Viele, wife of Dr. Charles Winne, obtained possession of it and it is now in the hands of her son, Col. Charles Knickerbacker Winne, of Albany, N. Y. This Bible contains the oldest authentic family records, which are as follows:



(Inside front cover)

J. K. Backer

Albannij 1721 augustus

3 mals hoogh water gehat  
dat er veel winter koren

weg dref in orten in haver (i. e. en erten in haver)

II- 18- 26 augustus

Rebecka Fonda Housvrow Van John Knickerbacker is geboren  
1718 Den 14 April en gestorven den 8 Januuary 1800 out  
Synde 81 Yaer 8 Mante & 6 dagen

1751 ben ik Geboren John Knickerbacker Jun<sup>r</sup>. 29th Januuary  
by de oude Stiel

1752 April 6th is geboren myn vrou Elisebeth & wy syn getrouw

1769 February 29 te Albany

1826 Nov 10th Died Elizabeth Knickerbacker aged Seventy four  
Years Seven Months and four Days

10th November 1827 Died John Knickerbacker at four O'Clock  
in the Morning.

(First Fly Leaf.)

Albany Mert 16th anno 1679 is Johannes Knickerbacker Geboren  
en syn vrou is geboren Anno 1681 de 4th Mert en is Getrouw  
Met

Ante Quackenboss den 19th van October Anno 1701 en har ouste  
Doghter Libete is Geboren Anno 1702 den 1 dag van  
November

Nelte is Geboren Anno 1706 den 24 dag van June

Harmen is Geboren Anno 1709 den 19 dag December

Wouter is Geboren Anno 1712 den 27 October

Cornelia is Geboren Anno 1716 den 16 September

Johannes is Geboren Anno 1723 den 17 Mert en is Gestorven den  
20th October 1802 oudt Synde Negen en seventig Jaer Vijf  
Maante en 22 Daagen

1768 Septem<sup>r</sup>. 18th is Harmen Knickerbacker Overleden Out  
Synde

58 Years 8 Manden en 18 dagen



(Page in middle of volume)

Schactekook                    { Ben ik Getrowt Johannes Knickerbacker  
 Fabruwary 29th 1769        { Jun' Met Elizebeth Winne  
 1769 December 17th is Geboren my Erste Son Harmen omtrent  
 Sondag Midag  
 1771 November 28th is Geboren myn tweden Soen William  
 omtrent 11 Uren in de avont  
 1772 July 28th is Gestorven myn Soen William omtrent midag  
 Out Synde 8 Manden  
 1773 May de 9 is Geboren my Son William Winne omtrent 11  
 Uren in de morgan  
 1775 May the 9th is Geboren myn Erste doghter Rebecken  
 omtret 2 uren na de midag  
 1777 Mert the 23th is Geboren myn tweden doghter Marytie  
 omtrent 2 uren na de midag  
 1777 October de 16th is Gestorven myn Oudste Soen Harmen  
 omtrent 10 uren, vor midag Oudt Synde 7 Jaer en 10 manden  
 1779 July de 27th is Geboren myn soen Harmen omtrent 7 uren  
 in de morgen  
 1781 June 16th is Geboren myn Doghter Dirke omtrent midag  
 1782 April de 21st is Gestorven myn Doghter Dirke out synde  
 10 Mande en ses dagen  
 1783 Januwary de 27th is Geboren my Twede Doghter Dirke  
 omtrent 4 Uren in de morgen  
 1784 December de 7th is Geboren my Son Johones omtrent 5  
 Uren in de morgen  
 1786 October 19 is Geboren myn Dochter Annatie omtrent an  
 helf ur voor medag  
 1788 August 18 is Geboren myn Dochter Elizabeth umtrent 9  
 uren in de Avont  
 1790 June 12 is Geboren myn Dochter Neltie omtrent 7 uren in  
 de morgen  
 1792 Augustus 23 is Geboren myn Dochter Katlyne omtrent 2  
 uren in de morgen  
 1796 is Geboren myn Son Abraham omtrent 2 Uren Na da midag  
 April 7



## (Fly Leaf Facing Back Cover)

William W. Knickerbacker was born May 9th 1773

Diricke Van Veghten born February 12th 1778

Schaghticoke May 19, 1792

Was I William W. Knickerbacker Maried to

Ms. Diricke Van Veghten of Schaghticoke

by the Reverend Lambertus De Ronde

## (Inside back cover)

Johannis Kneckerbacker

Myn Bibel

Goot Segent Ons Byde Amen

## Second Knickerbacker Bible

This is the Bible of Col. Johannes Knickerbacker of Colonial and Revolutionary fame. It is one of the Bibles made at Dordrecht by Hendrick and Jacob Keur. It is of fine tooled leather —the Old Testament printed in 1741 and the New Testament in 1744. The brass corners are intact and so are the hinges but the hasps are missing. It has apparently been read a great deal, especially the Old Testament, which was the favourite in the early days of the Reformed Dutch church. It is said to have been used in the pulpit of the Dutch Church at Schaghticoke of which church each Knickerbacker in his generation was Deacon or Elder.

At the top of the fly leaf of this Bible is written: "Johs' Knickerbacker zyn boick of Bybil Gekogt van pieterus Kur-tieneus to New York Pris, £3, 13s, September den 19, 1763."

Below comes the family inscriptions; viz:

"1723 th Mart 17th Es geboren John  
Knickerbacker, en min Vrou Rebeckka

*Fonda* is geboren in Het yar

1718 Februware 17th. 1751 Jannowary 29 na  
De oude Styl is Geboren myn soon Johannes.

1753 Jannewary 19th na de Newe Styl  
is geboren myn Dochter Annatie.

1754 november 19 na De newe Styl is geboren  
myn Twe Dochter Neiltje en Eliesabeth."



On the following page are these records:

"Abraham Viele en Annaie Knickerbacker Getrouw July 5, 1771.  
En mine son Johannis Geboren in het yar 1774 20th March  
En myn Doghter Eva Geboren 27th Jan'y 1779."

Be it Remembered that Annaie Viele, wife of Abraham Viele  
Departed this life on the 15th February A. D. 1826 at 11 o'clock  
in the Morning aged seventy Three years twenty six days.

Be it Remembered that Abraham Viele departed this life on  
the 14th of August 1829 at 12 of noon aged eighty four years and  
two days.

Be it Remembered that Johannes Knickerbacker departed  
this life on the 16th day of August 1802 at a quarter past ten  
in the Morning aged seventy nine years fore months and twenty  
one days and his wife Rebecca on the 6th day of January 1800  
about 8 o'clock in the morning.

Abraham Viele was born August 16th, 1745."

This Bible passed to Col. Johannes Knickerbacker's daughter  
Annatie, wife of Abraham Viele, as his only son Johannes  
Knickerbacker, Junior, as we have seen had already the Bible  
of his grandfather, Johannes Hermensen Knickerbacker. In  
the next generation this Bible was brought back into the Knick-  
erbacker family as it became the property of Eva Viele, second  
wife of Col. William Winne Knickerbacker. It remained in  
that branch of the Knickerbacker family until it died out, when  
it fell into the hands of strangers. From these it was pur-  
chased by the compiler, a descendant of Col. Johannes Knicker-  
backer, and presented by her to the State of New York. It is  
now in the New York State Library at Albany, N. Y.

### Third Knickerbacker Bible

This Bible is now in the possession of Mrs. Henry Knicker-  
backer, who kindly gave the compiler an opportunity to examine  
and copy its contents. This Bible had been very difficult of  
access and when it finally lay open before me I searched it  
eagerly hoping to find some record that would give support to  
traditional tales of family origin. I was disappointed. The  
writing in the Bible consisted of a family genealogy written in  
Dutch. It brought the family down to about the middle of



last century. The births, marriages and deaths were arranged in separate columns. The two remarkable things about it was that so modern a record should be written in Dutch and that it should contain the errors in the early generations which Dr. Van Alstyne had found so at variance with the church records.

Fortunately Mrs. Knickerbacker had put into my hand a solution of the problem at the time of my visit to her to see the Bible. This was a copy of the Troy Weekly Press for August 19, 1880, containing an excellent account of the Town of Schaghticoke and its inhabitants.

The enlightening item found in this article was as follows: "John Hale Knickerbacker was a graduate of Union College and also of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. . . . He had a cultured taste for Dutch literature and *wrote the genealogy of his family in the Dutch language.*" Here then was the author of this modern family record written in Dutch and the puzzle of finding modern errors appearing in a Dutch garb was solved!

Perchance he purchased while in Holland this beautiful Dutch Bible which is a fine specimen of the craft of Hendrik and Jacob Keur of Dordrecht and bears the date Ac.c-1c-LXXXII—said to be 1682. It bears no marks of having been a Knickerbacker Bible. It is said to be of great intrinsic value.

Below will be given the generation of Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker and his children and their marriages first as given in this Bible and then as they appear in Dr. Van Alstyne's Knickerbacker Genealogy and our readers can compare them for themselves.

I am forced to say that by trusting too much to hearsay and not seeking to weigh his information in the scales of critical accuracy John Hale Knickerbacker involved his family history in a sad genealogical tangle, which it is the hope of this little book to at least partially unravel.

Records in the Knickerbacker Bible compiled by John Hale Knickerbacker:

#### BIRTHS:

"Herman Jansen Knickerbacker geboren was Lentemaand 18 1648; zyne vrouwe geboren was Zommermaand 3 1651; er wirt getrouw met Lisbet Hermens van der Bogert Louwmaand 3



1675; zyn zon Johannes geboren was Lentmaand 16 1679; Louwrence geboren was Bloeimaand 3 1681; Cornelis geboren was Sommermaand 7 1684; Jannetje geboren was Bloeimaand 3 1686; Evert geboren was Louwmaand 12 1688; Pieter geboren was Louwmaand 9 1689; Cornelia geboren was Wintermaand 5 1690.

MARRIAGES:

Johannes geboren was Lentemaand 16 1679; zyn vrou geboren was Lentemaand 5 1681; Hy wird getrouw met Annetje Quackenbos Wynmaand 19th 1701; Laurence Hy wird getrouw met Catrine Van Horne Herfstimaand 2, 1710; Cornelius Hy wird getrouw met Annetje van Els Sommermaand 7 1712; Jannetje Sy wierdt getrouw met Hendrick Lansyngh Bloeimaand 4 1705; Cornelia Sy wierdt get trout met Derick Roosevelt Sommermaand 4 1720; (The marriages of Evert and Pieter are not given.)

DEATHS:

Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker stirbt Grasmaand 4 1720; Lysbet Hermans van der Bogert stirbt Grasmaand 15 1723; Johannes 1749; Lauwrence Wynmaand 5 1750; Jannetje Louwmaand 12 1734; Evert Louwmaand 6 1736; Pieter Bloeimaand 4 1741; Cornelia Herfstmaand 5 1740."

Account of Herman Jansen and his Children as Compiled by  
Dr. W. B. Van Alstyne in New York Genealogical and  
Biographical Record for January, 1908

*(With corrections in parenthesis by K. K. V.):*

"Hermen Jansen Knickerbacker (b. about 1648) married about 1681 (before 1678) Lisbet Janse Bogert, b. in Holland in 1659, daughter of Jan Louve Bogert and Cornelia Evertse his wife. (Hermen Jansen, d. previous to 1717, and his widow was living till 1730, in Dutchess Co., N. Y. (Dutchess Co. Tax Lists).

(1) Johannes, b. (1679 according to oldest family Bible and to date on gravestone at Schaghticoke) in the Manor of Rensselaerwyck; m. at Albany 19, October, 1701, Anna Quackenbos.

(2) Laurens, b. (bap. in Albany January 1, 1686, wit; Anthoni Van Schayk. By Marrietje Van Schayk); m. about



1707 Marike Dyckman (Inscription on stone found by Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker in 1890 at Tivoli Dutchess Co., N. Y., states that Laurens died September 20, 1766, in the 82nd year of his age).

(3) Jannetje, b. in the Colony of Rensselaerwyck; m. (1) Hendrick Lansing, Jr., 22 March, 1704; (2) Anthony Bogardus, 6 March, 1709 (Jannetje was probably born before Laurens and after the little child for whom Hermen Jansen Van Bommel procured the "small pall" in 1682).

(4) Cornelis, bap. 2 September, 1688; wit; Jacob Cornelisz and Jannetje Jacobs.

(5) Cornelis, bap. 6 Jan., 1692 wit; Takel Dirckse and Aeltje Van Esch; m. about 1721, Johanna Shutt; d. at Sharon, N. Y., 30 Mar., 1776.

(6) Cornelia, bap. 21 July, 1695, wit; Evert Van Esch and Cornelia Bogert; m. about 1715 Jan Vosburgh.

(7) Evert, bap. 3 September, 1699; wit; Evert Ridder and Antje Ridder; m. 23 May, 1735, at Albany Geertruy Vosburgh.

(8) Pieter, bap. 19 April, 1702, wit; Wouter and Antje Quackenbosch; m. 1725 Neeltjen Freer."

All the names given by Mr. Knickerbacker in this record have been investigated. Here are some of the most flagrant discrepancies.

(1) It may be possible that Lawrence Knickerbacker had a first wife named Catharine Van Horne, but no trace of such a marriage nor any connection with Van Hornes has been found.

(2) The birth of Evert Knickerbacker is given as occurring in 1688, but the church record gives date of his baptism as in 1699. It is well known that among the Dutch the baptism followed closely on the birth.

(3) Pieter, the Bible sets forth, was born in 1689 and he is baptized in the Dutch church at Albany in 1702.

(4) The Bible account says that Lawrence Knickerbacker died in 1750, while the stone found at Tivoli in 1890 by Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker reads: "Here lies the Body of Mr. Lawrence Knickerbacker who died ye 20th of December and was buried ye 22nd in the 82nd year of his age in ye year 1766."



This last date makes his death correspond with the date of his baptism (1686) in Albany Dutch church.

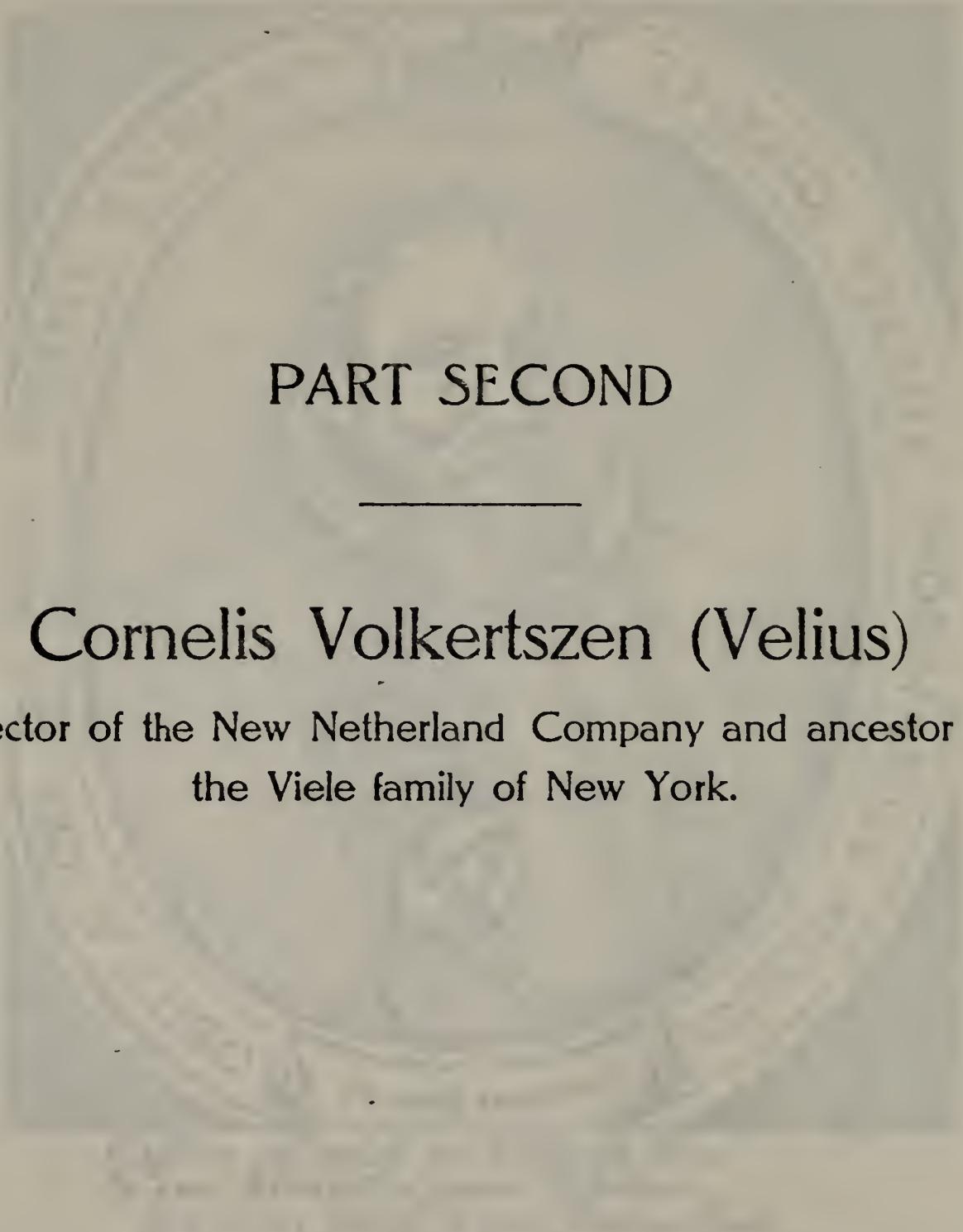
(5) Cornelia Knickerbacker married Jan Vosburgh about 1715 (her son Jacob was b. 1716) and Mr. Edmund Knickerbacker relating his experiences on visiting the Knickerbacker graveyard at Tivoli in Dutchess Co., in 1890, says: "Another monument in red sandstone . . . contains the following inscription: "In memory of John Vosburgh who was b. November 6, 1680, and departed this life May 28, 1775, aged ninety-six years, 6 mo. and 20 d. This was evidently the husband of Cornelia Knickerbacker. How strange then to read that she married June 4, 1720, Derick Rosevelt!"

(6) Evert has no wife given him in the Bible record but it states that he died in 1736. In 1755 there is mention in Rhinebeck of a Capt. Evert Knickerbacker. (Smith's His. of Rhinebeck, p. 50.)

(7) Pieter also has no wife assigned to him but it is recorded that he died in 1741. Pieter Knickerbacker married Neeltjen Freer (see Kingston Marriages) in 1725 and in 1775 Pieter Knickerbacker and his wife Neeltjen Freer join the church at Red Hook, N. Y.

This is enough to show how unreliable this Knickerbacker Bible record is and I have enlarged on the subject because it looks so imposing in its beautiful case and in its Dutch dress that it will surely lead others astray unless one who has taken time to weigh the evidence points out its mistakes. The whole simply shows the necessity of taking nothing from hearsay in matters genealogical and the record can only be respected for the labor of love which, of however mistaken a nature, it surely represents.





## PART SECOND

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### Cornelis Volkertszen (Velius)

Director of the New Netherland Company and ancestor of  
the Viele family of New York.





O. Heeren, ghy verheft uw kostelycken horen  
Op uwen VELIUS, en grooten Tagheboren.  
Den trouwen Cicero in uwe Kloekken Raet.  
Den schraenden Klaudian, den wryzen Hippocrateet.  
Viens artsen en de Doot ontveldiche haer lycken:  
Ghykent hem door dit Beelt, maer best uyt syn Kronycken.  
T. Mathem sculp. J. N. vondel.



## PART SECOND

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### Cornelis Volkertszen (Velius)

Director of the New Netherland Company and Ancestor of  
the Viele Family of New York

Hoorn, that little city on the Zuider Zee, which has been so big in maritime enterprise and has given "its immortal name" to a world-famous cape, is in the Province of West Friesia, now called North Holland. Here in the latter part of the sixteenth century were born two brothers, sons of Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker, one of whom became a man of learning, distinguished as an historian, poet and physician, while the other established himself as a merchant—a seller of books. These two brothers seem to have been united in the spirit of maritime adventure which the time fostered, and which came naturally to them with their name of Seylemaecker (sailmaker).

The younger of these brothers is the subject of this sketch, but as Dr. Velius, the elder of the two, is the better known and was the one to change the family cognomen of Seylemaecker into its Latin form of Velius, there must of necessity be many allusions to him.

The strong presumptive evidence here presented claims to establish the identity of this merchant-explorer, Cornelis Volkertszen Seylemaecker, or Velius, of Hoorn, brother of Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius, with that of Cornelis Volkertszen, trader of New Amsterdam and father of the three brothers born in New Amsterdam late in the first half of the seventeenth century, who took the name which, when we first come across it, is written Veilen and Vilen. This evidence is the result of an unusual series of discoveries along genealogical lines both in New Amsterdam and Hoorn, which extend back through four centuries.



There are many stumbling blocks to be encountered in the endeavor to ascertain the origin of the names of the Dutch families of New Netherland. Many of the Hollanders of the seventeenth century had no family names and even those who had them neglected to make general use of them. It requires some study of early Dutch habits and customs to make any headway in the tracing of Dutch descent. The usual method was to add to the name of the son the name of his father, so that Pieter, son of Jan, became Pieter Jansen. To this name would often attach itself for better identification a third name—that of locality or occupation, and even a fourth when both former place of residence and occupation or else a personal peculiarity was added. On the other hand, the systematic naming of the first born after the paternal or maternal grandparents is a fruitful source of proof of relationship, as is also the prevailing custom of choosing near relatives as sponsors in the baptisms, which occurred as nearly as possible after birth. To a knowledge of Dutch habits should be added some sympathetic insight and a prevailing desire to be satisfied only with the truth. He who patiently asks the reason why will, in many cases, because of these customs, be rewarded by the fulfilment of the promise that "he that seeketh findeth."

It was while feeling along in this way for the truth that the evidence was reached that makes it appear that the name of Viele was evolved from that of Velius and the probable success of the search is of general interest because of the important claims with which the name of the ancestor is identified and by reason of his relationship to the famous Dr. Theodore Velius—Dr. Dirck Volkertszen—of Hoorn.

It was the name of Volkert, as will be shown, which proved the open sesame and became the first link in a chain which extends back through several centuries.

Family tradition gave a Huguenot origin to the name of Viele. The original Vieles appear to have been three brothers, who settled, the eldest in Albany and the other two in Schenectady in the years between 1659-1670. Back of 1659 their origin was hidden and their father was unknown. This much was certain that he must have been a Cornelis, for each of these brothers had a "Cornelisen" after his Christian name.



My brother, Herman Knickerbacker Viele, took much interest in this search, and as a preliminary measure, looked up all the names of similar spelling in different European countries. He found in several lands there were names where the vowels *i* and *e*, singly or in combination, were preceded by "V" and followed by "l" in family names. He commenced a search in Holland, since it was probable that it was from there that the ancestor had started for America. The search was made in Amsterdam, The Hague, Leiden and Venlo, but was in vain. My father, General Egbert L. Viele, also tried to solve the family problem and at one time, while travelling in Switzerland, he came across a family of *Vieli* living in an old castle at Rhazuns and hopes arose, only to be blasted, that here was to be found the cradle of his family.

When it fell to me to complete the work of my father and brother I followed down, as I thought, every *Cornelis* to be found on the records of New Amsterdam, Albany, Kingston, and on those of the Dutch towns on Long Island. This task was also vain and it seemed as though it would have to be acknowledged that there was no trace to be found of the *Cornelis* whose three sons were known by the name of *Veilen*, *Vilen* and *Viele*. The only hopeful reflection was that although nothing had been discovered, much had been eliminated.

The family tradition of a French origin was accounted for by the marriages of early *Vieles* to Walloon and Huguenot wives.

One day about three years ago (1913) while engaged in looking over the baptismal records of the Dutch church in New York, with quite a different object in view, my eye rested accidentally on the name *Cornelis Volkertszen*. I found it to be the record of the baptism of his son *Cornelis* in 1643 and I recalled at once that *Cornelis Cornelisen Viele* had in 1689 a son *Volkert* baptized in Albany.

Could it be possible that I had thus stumbled upon a knowledge of the long-sought-for father! Further search revealed the fact that *Cornelis Volkertszen* had had a few years later another son baptized in the same church—*Pieter*—and also a daughter—*Jacomintje*—born between the two sons. The baptismal records of the New York Dutch church begin in 1639



and these baptisms took place in 1643, '45 and '48. The name of the oldest Viele brother, Arnoult Cornelisen, alone was missing. Still further search revealed the record of his baptism in 1640. His mother, Marye Dutrieux, had brought him to baptism in the absence of her husband, but his name of Arnoult Cornelisen confirms him also as the son of Cornelis Volkertszen. He was named for his mother's grandfather,—Arnoult Noiret of Lille, who was living in Leiden in 1617. (See record of Dutrieux marriages in appendix.)

The extant New Amsterdam Records begin in 1638 and Cornelis Volkertszen died 1648-9. In these ten years there are only a few mentions of him. If he was born, as we will state, in 1574, he was an old man by this time and had children in Hoorn older than his wife, Marye Dutrieux, who was born in Amsterdam in 1617.

An item in 1639 speaks of him as making a loan—an indication of good circumstances.

He received a Patent from the West India Company on July 13, 1643, for a "double lot" on the "Great Highway," but had probably been in possession of the same for years previous to this date. This land on Manhattan Island was near the present Exchange Place and he appears to have lived there until he died, for it was not until 1656 that his widow's second husband, Jan Peeck, sold this land, which was large enough to contain three houses. (See appendix.) In 1644 he was one of the citizens who selected the Committee of Eight to safeguard the interests of the community, and in 1648 he and other innkeepers pledged themselves as "good men and true" to pay the recently levied excise tax. His was one of the twelve taverns which were really trading posts where the bartering was done over the convivial glass. Cornelis Volkertszen signs the document of 1648, as only about two-thirds of the others can, showing him to have been a man of some education; that he signs it simply Cornelis Volkertszen is according to custom and argues him to be well known. Later his sons Arnoult and Cornelis, both traders and Indian interpreters, were also licensed innkeepers, the one in Albany and the other in Schenectady.



When Cornelis Volkertszen died he left an estate of some size, part of which was held by guardians for the use of his children. In the "Schepen Register" of New Amsterdam under date of March 16, 1656, it is stated that "Andries Jochomsz and Claes Hendrickse acknowledge to owe Govert Lockermanns and Isaack De Foreest as guardians of the children of Cornelis Volkertszen deceased 5100 Carolus guilders due from sale of house bought by Claes Hendrickse of Jan Peeck, who married the widow of said Cornelis Volkertszen." (See appendix.)

Tracing the Viele ancestor to Cornelis Volkertszen of New Amsterdam set forever at rest the theory of a French origin of the family of Viele. Cornelis Volkertszen was no Frenchman. His wife's father, Phillippe Dutrieux, was a Walloon, originally from Roubaix, but driven by fear of persecution to take refuge in Holland from whence he came to America with his family in 1624. His eldest daughter, Marye, was born in Amsterdam and baptized in the Walloon church at Leiden on April 5, 1617. (See appendix.)

Who was this Cornelis Volkertszen? Was he the same Cornelis Volkertszen who, in 1614, was one of the three merchant owners of the ship "Fortuyn" from Hoorn, which had, in 1613, under the command of Captain Cornelis Jacobsen May, explored the coasts of New Jersey and Long Island, and who, as reward for claiming lands in the name of the Netherlands, had received a special charter from the States General under the title of the "New Netherland Company" together with the owners of four ships from Amsterdam, for the exclusive right to trade between the two countries for the space of three years, during which they could make four voyages?

Cornelis Volkertszen of Hoorn was one of those whom the following concerned:

"Grant of exclusive trade to New Netherland.

(From the minutes on a half sheet of paper in the Royal Archives in The Hague; file, Loopende.)

The States-General of the United Netherlands to all to Whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas Gerrit Jacobsz Witssen, ancient Burgermaster of the City of Amster-



dam, Jonas Witssen, Simon Morrisen, owners of the ship named the "Little Fox," whereof Jan de Witt has been skipper; Hans Hongers, Paulus Pelgrom, Lambrecht van Tweenhuysen, owners of the two ships named "The Tiger" and "The Fortuyn," whereof Adriaan Block and Hendrick Corstiaenssen were skippers; Arnout van Lybergen, Wessel Schenck, Hans Claese and Berent Sweertssen, owners of the ship named "The Nightingale," whereof Thys Volkertszen was skipper, merchants of the aforesaid City of Amsterdam and Pieter Clementssen Brouwer, Jan Clementssen Kies and *Cornelis Volkertssen*, Merchants of the City of Hoorn, owners of the ship named "The Fortuyn," whereof Cornelis Jacobsen May was skipper, all now associated in one company have respectfully represented to us that they the petitioners after great expences and damages by loss of ships and other dangers had during the present year discovered and found with the above named five ships certain new lands situate in America between New France and Virginia, the sea coasts wherof lie between forty and forty-five degrees of latitude and now called *New Netherland* and wheras we did in the month of March last for the promotion and increase of commerce cause to be published a certain consent and charter setting forth that whosoever should hereafter discover and found new places and passages might frequent or cause to be frequented passages, havens or lands to the exclusion of all others from visiting or frequenting the same from the United Netherlands, until the said first discoverers and founders shall themselves have completed the said four voyages or caused the same to be done within the time prescribed for that purpose under the penalties expressed in the same Octroy and they request that we should accord to them due act of the aforesaid Octroy in the usual form. Which being considered we therefore in our Assembly having heard the pertinent report of the petitioners relative to the discoveries and finding of the said new countries between the above named limits and degrees and also of their adventures have consented and granted and by these presents do consent and grant by the said petitioners now united into one company that they shall be privileged exclusively to frequent or cause to be visited the above named discovered lands situate in



America between New France and Virginia &c . . . and that for four voyages within the term of three years commencing the first of January Sixteen hundred and fifteen next ensuing or sooner without it being permitted to any other person from the United Netherlands to sail, to navigate or to frequent the newly discovered lands, havens or places on pain of the confiscation of the vessel and cargo wherewith infraction thereof shall be attempted and a fine of fifty thousand Netherland ducats for the benefit of said discoverers or finders; provided that by these presents we do not intend to prejudice or diminish any of our former grants or charters &c . . . XIth of October 1614." (Brodhead's Col. Doc., Vol. I, p. 12.)

I am not the first to believe or assert that this merchant of Hoorn, director of the New Netherland Company, is one and the same with the Cornelis Volkertszen whom we find established in New Amsterdam in 1638 when the New Netherland records begin. It is believed that to the most conservative the evidence offered will be sufficiently convincing to lead to the fair presumption that they were. We will now proceed to recount what has been found out concerning Cornelis Volkertszen of Hoorn.

In a recent correspondence with the Rev. William Elliot Griffis, a scholarly man, well-posted in Dutch history and in Dutch ways, he directed my attention to the Dutch name of Velius as a possible origin of the New Netherland name of Viele. Johann Winckler, in his book on the derivation of family names in the Netherlands, shows that the North Holland name of Velius was originally Seylemaecker (sailmaker) and had been changed from the vernacular to the Latin form according to the universal habit of the seventeenth century among those who affected learning or frequented the universities.

In writing on this subject Mr. J. H. Innes told me of a Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius of Hoorn who in 1604 had published a "Chronyk van der Stadt Hoorn" of which there were four editions, the last appearing in 1740.

The question immediately arose, was there any connection between Cornelis Volkertszen of Hoorn, Director of the New Netherland Company, and this Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius,



and if they were related, could the three sons of Cornelis Volkertszen of New Netherland known, when we first meet with them as "Veilen" and "Vilen" justly lay claim to relationship with Dr. Velius and find in the name of Velius, the name of their father, and in Seylemaecker the name of *his* father—Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker of Hoorn?

The first thing to ascertain was whether Dr. Velius had had a brother Cornelis. After a long search in Hoorn we have found that he had. I have been able to make three connections between these two men; the first is in the following document which is also one of those Holland Documents found by Mr. Brodhead at The Hague and published in the Colonial Documentary History of New York, Vol. I, p. 26.

"Resolution of the States General permitting another ship to be sent to Virginia. (From the Register of Resolutions in the Royal Archives at The Hague.)

"Friday 24th September 1621.

"On the petition of Dierck Volkertse, Dr. Verus and Dr. Carbassius residing at Hoorn, Pieter Nannick of Medemblik, Accountant and Cornelis Volkertse, together with Pieter Dircksen Schroders, it is allowed as followth:

"The States, etc., have communication of the contents of this petition for reasons therein mentioned allowed and hereby allow for disposition thereof and that the aforesaid petitioners may accordingly for the purposes aforesaid send to the Virginias one ship laden with all sorts of permitted merchandise to trade with and profit by the same; and afterwards to bring over their cargoes, clerks and seamen to this country provided that they shall have returned home before the first of July sixteen hundred and twenty two." (Holland Documents in Col. His. of New York, Vol. I, p. 26.)

The reason for permitting this ship to sail for America on a mercantile venture just when the States General were on the eve of granting exclusive trading rights to the newly formed West India Company, was probably the influential character of the men who made the petition. First there was the famous Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius (misspelt Verus) and Dr. Carbassius, also a physician and member of a well-known family, then Pieter Nannick of Medemblik, at one time



Burgermeister of Medemblik and later member of the West India Company, and Cornelis Volkertszen, Director of the New Netherland Company, merchant of Hoorn and brother of Dr. Dirck Volkertszen. Of Pieter Dircksen Schroder alone nothing has been found.

I am quite positive about saying "Velius" was the name intended on this document, for I have had the original examined at The Hague recently and found that "Verus" was a typographical error. This makes it not only probable that "Dirck Volkertszen, Dr. Velius," refers to the same man, but it would require very strong evidence to show that any other Dirck Volkertszen was intended.

But the chief object has been accomplished by this verification as it establishes the fact that Dr. Velius and Cornelis Volkertszen were united in this commercial enterprise of 1621.

Mr. J. H. Innes, in his "New Amsterdam and Its People," has associated with Cornelis Volkertszen of New Amsterdam, whom he regards also as one and the same as he of Hoorn of the same name who was part owner of the "Fortuyn" in 1613-18, a Dirck Volkertszen, alias Hongersen and Noorman, who settled on Long Island in the early days of the Colony and who was probably a much younger man than Cornelis Volkertszen, as his name appears on the records many years after the decease of the latter. This man was frequently called "Hongersen" without the Volkertszen and sometimes "Hongersen Noorman." Neither of these names were applied to Cornelis Volkertszen. Dirck was a carpenter and could not sign his name.

Mr. A. J. F. van Laer considers that this name of "Hongersen" continually attached to his name indicates clearly that he was a Scandinavian and it is with men of that nationality that he appears mostly to have associated. Mr. van Laer says: "It appears to me very unlikely that he should have lived at Hoorn and joined in a petition of that kind."

It is quite remarkable to find that the Dr. Carbassius associated in this enterprise was not only a doctor of medicine, like Dr. Velius, but that his family had likewise come to Hoorn from Medemblik and that the father of each had been known by the name of Seylemaecker. On frequenting the university



the one had changed "Seylemaecker" into the Latin form of "Velius" and the other had assumed the Greek form of "Carbassius." Velum is the Latin for sail and Carbassius the Greek for the same.

Perhaps there was some relationship between them. Certainly it is quite natural that these men, in position and occupation so similar, should have been friends and should have united in this New World venture with the brother of Dr. Velius, who had had already so much experience of traffic with "the Wilden" and would have knowledge of what merchandise would be acceptable to them in exchange for their peltries.

Mr. J. H. Innes seems to think that Volkert was "an uncommon name in Holland." But this was not the case at least in North Holland. It appears to have been a West Friesian name as far back as 1399-1400, as testifies an item said to have been taken from a treasurer's account book preserved at Leiden, which translates thus: "For ship rent; to DIRC VOLKERTS for two days at sea with men of this city XVI shillings VIII pence a day." From the context this seems to refer to a West Friesia skipper. It also appears that the name of Volkert in the family under discussion extended back into the fifteenth century in West Friesia. This does not exclude the probability that it was also used among the Danes.

It seems then safe to assert that Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius and Cornelis Volkertszen of whom we had knowledge in 1613, were associated in this enterprise of 1621 and to find in this association the first connection between these men whom I claim to have been brothers. They meet on the common ground of traders and shipowners, though one was a man of much learning, for those days, whose life was full of literary and municipal honors, and the other, commencing life as a dealer in books seems to have followed up his transatlantic adventures by drifting over to the new country beyond the seas, to have been lost sight of in his native Hoorn and to have spent his last days in the chief settlement of that new domain he had had some little share in claiming for Holland.

The second connection between the two brothers, Dr. Dirck and Cornelis, was found in one of the oldest extant baptismal



records in Hoorn (1593-1614). Here are to be seen recorded the baptisms of several children of Dr. Dirck Volkertszen and also of Cornelis Volkertszen, each there described as a "native of Hoorn." It will be observed that he is called Dr. Dirck Volkertszen on this record. That he was Dr. Velius is proved by the correspondance of the dates of the baptisms of his two sons — Volkert and Maerten — on this record and the ages ascribed to them on their matriculation in Leiden University, under the names of Volcardus Velius and Martinus Velius.

The eldest son and eldest daughter of both Dr. Dirck and Cornelis Volkertszen are on this baptismal record registered as "Volkert" and "Anna." It is positively known that the mother of both Dr. Dirck and Cornelis Volkertszen was Anna Dircks, first wife of Volkert Maartense Seylemaecker. This uniformity accords with Dutch custom and points to the fact that here were two brothers naming their daughters after their common mother. This record has not the enlightening addition of the mother's name or the names of the sponsors.

The third point of contact will appear further along where will be shown from the copies of two MSS. now preserved in the Town Hall at Hoorn that Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius had surely a brother Cornelis. This is perhaps best led up to by recounting the history of the Velius family of Hoorn as chronicled in the first of these, which we will call the Timon Velius MSS.

In 1495, about the time that Columbus was engaged in his voyages to America, a man named Volkert Schaghen, born probably at Harlem, established himself in the little town of Medemblik on the northeast coast of West Friesia, not far from the larger town of Hoorn. Volkert Schaghen settled at Medemblik because his wife, Aeff van Wader, had there an estate. (It is likely that he was connected with those Schaghens of Medemblik, who later, four strong, were Directors in the West India Company; two of them being also Burghermasters of Medemblik.)

This Volkert Schaghen seems to have been a man of wealth. He left three known children: Volkert, who appears to have left no descendants; Maarten, who married Dirkje



Cornelis (daughter) of Alkmaar, and Simon, a priest at Medemblik.)

In the siege of Medemblik (1517) by the Guilder-Friesians he is said to have lost a great deal of property; his house to have been destroyed by fire, his movables stolen and he himself made a prisoner.

Maarten Schaghen also had three children, one son and two daughters. He knew something, too, of the fortunes of war, as he is said to have died in 1542 "in consequence of an old wound." His son named Volkert was born March 4, 1542, and married (1) Anna Dirks of Medemblik, October 20, 1564; (2) Marritjen Jans of Twisch, October 20, 1605, and died December 4, 1618. He was known as Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker.

The name of Schaghen, by which his family had been known for at least two generations, he appears to have dropped. He lost his parents and much of his property, as we have seen, in the great fire of Medemblik in 1550 and was educated by his uncle Simon, the priest. Later he came to Hoorn. Johann Winckler says Schaghen was the name of a Borough and it may designate the place where his family at one time held lands. The loss of the name may have been contemporary with the loss of the land.

Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker appears to have had four sons, but only one made his mark in Hoorn; namely, he who came to be known as Dr. Velius. The chief literary achievement of Dr. Dirck Velius was his "Chronyk van der Stadt Hoorn," from which Dr. Blok quotes in his history of the Netherlands (Vol. III, p. 268), in order to point out that it was because the wars in Europe had curtailed the avenues of commerce that shipowners were crossing the ocean in search of new mercantile ventures. This Chronyk has as preface to its third edition a biographical notice of its author. Among other known works of Dr. Velius is a poem in heroic verse on West Friesia. Besides being City Physician, he was a member of the City Council and in 1618, on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Orange to Hoorn, "where he made many changes" in the municipal offices, Velius was one of the Old Councillors who received him. From 1617 to his death in



1630 he was a member of the "Board of Wardens." An engraving in the third edition of his *Chronyk* depicts his fine countenance and represents him as holding in his hand a spray of healing herb. Beneath this portrait is written in Dutch a verse by the Dutch peasant poet, J. Vondel:

"O Hoorn, blow gladly on thy costliest horn,  
To honor Velius who within thy walls was born;  
Whose truth like Cicero's adorned thy seat for magistrates  
With Claudian wisdom or like Hippocrates.  
His art of medicine the power of death did test;  
Thou know'st him from this print, but from his works the  
best."

The descendants of Dr. Velius held for generations offices of trust in Hoorn, and two of them, Schepen Petrus Lambertus Velius (born 1701) and Burghermaster Timon Velius (born 1704), about one hundred years after his death, collected what family data they could and deposited it in the Town Hall at Hoorn, where it may be seen to-day. The MSS. of Timon seems to have been taken from some older source and the narrative is so straightforward and simple that it seems in its essentials convincingly true. After the account of Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker it concerns itself entirely with the descendants of his most conspicuous son,—Dr. Dirck Volkertszen Velius, who latinizes also his first name and appears on the title page of his "*Chronyk*" as Dr. Theodorus Velius.

The MSS. of Timon's brother, Schepen Petrus Lambertus Velius, attempts to tell something of the collaterals, and it is to him we owe it that we have knowledge that Volkert Maertense Seylemaecker had also a son Cornelis. Timon says that "the rest of the children are unknown," but Petrus gives this table of the brothers and sisters of Dr. Velius.

"Maerten, b. Sept. 22, 1566—d. March 21 or 31, 1591.  
Dirck, b. Jan. 21, 1572—d. April 23, 1630.  
Geert, b. March 15, 1576—d. Sept. 28, 1640.  
Etje, b. Nov. 28, 1578—d. —.  
Cornelis, b. May 6, 1584—d. Nov. 4, 1637.  
Jan, b. April 23, 1587—d. May 5, 1618.  
Dirck above mentioned married Mulier.



Geert above mentioned married Dirck Sleutel.  
Etje above mentioned married Adrian Claes."

Before specifying what on this list we think may be relied on we will place before our readers items concerning this family which have been recently with great perseverance dug out from such scattered Hoorn documents of church and State as have escaped the frequent periods of warfare in the Netherlands.

We have connected Cornelis Volkertszen of New Amsterdam, with Hoorn, with the New Netherland Company, and with Dr. Dirck Velius, it is therefore not surprising that we find in a document dated June 5, 1614, that Cornelis Volkertszen, Bookseller (which at this time must have meant also *book-maker*) resided at Hoorn on the Nieuwland (street) in the house called "'t Vergulde Claver" (the golden clover)! This is surely our Director of the New Netherland Company, who was described as a "merchant" of Hoorn in the Charter of the States-General of even date! His wife appears to have been Brecht Walichs. This last, together with the mention of two of his daughters, Annetjen Cornelis and Aeffgen Cornelis, is found in the will of Aeffgen Volkerts, wife of Claes Maertse, dated 1617. This Aeffgen Volkerts was his sister and doubtless a daughter of Volkert Maartense Seylemaecker, whom Schepen Petrus did not find record of to place on his list of Volkert's children. The name Aeffgen harks back to Aeff Van Wader, wife of Volkert Schaghen. The names of Annetjen Cornelis and Aeffgen Cornelis appear on the old Hoorn list of baptisms—1593 and 1607,—as will be seen on this list of the children of Cornelis Volkertszen Seylemaecker or Velius and Brecht Walichs, baptized at Hoorn:

"1593, November 28, *Anna*; 1595, 22 January, *Volkert*; 1598, 18 January, *Jacob*; 1600, November 23; *Olffort*; 1602, November 17, *Mechteld*; 1604, 18 January, *Aeffien*; 1605, August 2, *Jan*; 1607, 18 March, *Aeffien*; 1608, December 7, *Jacob*."

The second marriage of Volkert Maartense Seylemaecker was found on the records (Notary T. Goossens van Haerlem) to Marretjen Jans (daughter) of Twisch, October 20, 1605, together with their joint will dated September 23, 1607. This



appears to have been probated 1617-8 and Volkert may have died as the MSS. says in 1618, or that date may refer to the probating of his will.

We have obtained all the dates of the threee marriages of Dr. Dirck Velius, and although they may have no immediate bearing on the subject it is a pity not to print them. Dr. Velius married (1) Martha des Muliers, daughter of Pierre des Muliers, about 1594. She died December 15, 1595, leaving one son, Peter. (2) Aeff Eawout (born 1572), daughter of Eewout Adriaens and Aeltje Damens, 12 September, 1599 (seven children); died May 27, 1622. (3) Leyntie Peters of Breda, September, 1626.

The chief interest for us in the MSS. of Schepen Petrus Velius lies in the fact that the name of Cornelis is on the list of the children of Volkert Maartense Seylemaecker. I must take exception at some of his dates, but the fact can be relied on. Whatever faults may be justly found with a family record in the way of inaccuracy or omission *I have never found that a child was claimed who did not exist.*

I believe I can point out convincingly that both the date of his birth and the date of his death are wrong. These dates seemed at first like very great disappointments and stumbling blocks, but reflection shows that they can both be explained. Cornelis Volkertszen could not have been born in 1584, since the baptism of his first child is in 1593, but he could easily have been born in 1574, as by looking at the record in the MSS. it will be seen that there is a period of four years between the given dates of the births of Dr. Dirck Velius and his sister Geert, 1572-76. With regard to the date of his death it is most likely that no one in Hoorn knew when that occurred, and the blank line drawn across the date of decease of his sister Etje, just ahead of him on the list, should probably have followed his name instead of hers. (The experience of the compiler personally shows how easily inaccuracies may occur:—in Stone's Griffing Genealogy, page 145, she read that she had died in 1879! The mistake had occurred by using my name and the date of the decease of my sister. In this case the date of birth given was not the year that either of us had been born in!)



I do not therefore regard this statement that Cornelis Volkertszen Velius died in 1637 as a serious obstacle and in view of the rest of the evidence it is obviously an error. I am glad the blank was there to show that one of these dates was acknowledged to be unknown and it is not far-fetched, I am sure, to assert that this applied to the death of Cornelis rather than to that of his sister Etje, who probably lived and died in Hoorn.

The name Cornelis came into the family through Cornelis of Alkmaar, whose daughter Dirkje married Maarten Schaghen of Medemblik. Cornelis Volkertszen was therefore named for his grandmother's father.

We have now seen the ships of Cornelis Volkertszen of Hoorn coming six times across the Atlantic; we have seen Cornelis Volkertszen of New Amsterdam affording us no indications of his nationality save only his name, but standing completely by himself, associated with no other of like name; we have seen that Cornelis Volkertszen of Hoorn was the brother of Dr. Velius; we have seen that the three sons of Cornelis Volkertszen of New Amsterdam call themselves Veilen and Vilen when we first meet with them on the records when they would logically take their father's name, so especially needed in their case to distinguish them from their half brothers and sisters—the Peecks. Nor should it be forgotten that this name had probably been applied to the Viele brothers for years after their father's death in New Amsterdam before there was any occasion for it to appear on the records. Their uncle and guardian, Isaac De Forest, probably saw to it that they were not known as "Peecks." That they were early known by their family name seems probable since they are called by it at once when they appear on the records. Even if the name had begun with another termination it would soon in the common Dutch reach first Veilen and then Vilen, Vile and Viele. At the present day there are members of this family who spell the name Velie, Viely and Vielie. There has never been a uniformity of spelling. Vielé is the last and is also incorrect. Viele is the most usual form. One Viele—a poet, in France—calls himself Vielé-Griffin. Other forms will



arise and the name once Velius will take the wings of the Seylemaecker and sail still further from its place of origin.

May we not without much hazard agree with Dr. William Elliot Griffis, who wrote me thus after considering the testimony I have given you: "I have read carefully your letter. . . . Now simply as a matter of science and in no way interested in the matter except as historic truth, it is my judgment (knowing old Dutch customs) that the three sons of Cornelis Volkertszen took the name of their famous uncle."

The motto of Dr. Velius as appears beneath the engraving in the frontispiece to his "Chronyk" is, "Ne quid temere"—Undertake nothing without planning. The Velius Coat of Arms is a shield of blue with an anchor in the centre—above, a helmet surmounted by wings—a ship and sails. Over his portrait is the crest of Dr. Velius—shield with anchor, surmounted by a star.

#### List of Authorities Referred to in Foregoing Sketch

Brodhead's Colonial Document History of the State of New York (Vol. I).

Brodhead's History of the State of New York (p. 63).

O'Callaghan's History of New Netherland (Vol. II, app. p. 582).

Fernow's Records of New Amsterdam (Vol. I).

Register of Baptisms of Dutch Church in New York.

Munsell's Collections of the History of Albany.

Valentine's Manual for 1865.

Holland Society Year Books for 1900 and 1904.

O'Callaghan's Calendar of Dutch MSS.

Velius' Chronyk van der Stadt Hoorn.

Velius MSS. in Town Hall at Hoorn, Holland.

Old Hoorn Baptismal Register.

Johann Winckler's Nederlandsche Geschlechtnamer.

De Vroldschap Van Amsterdam Doer Johan E. Elias (p. 452).

Nederland Genealogies, A. A. Vosterman van Oyen (Vol. 9, p. 268).



Search in Holland made by P. J. Kapteyn, Clerk in the Archives of Amsterdam.

Thanks are due for courtesies received in connection with this compilation to Mr. A. J. F. van Laer, Archivist at New York State Library, Dr. William Elliot Griffis, Dr. William B. Van Alstyne, and Miss Helen Kenyon, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.



## APPENDIX

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Family Documents

Additions to "Viele Records" Published 1913



## APPENDIX

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### 1615-1621.—Viele Records, Page 14

Records of the two marriages of Philippe Dutrieux, in Amsterdam, Holland, and of the baptisms of his four children by his first wife, from the Register of the Walloon church at Leiden:

"fo. 26. Kerkelyk Huwelyks Inteekening register (D. T. & B. no. 419) Den 11den Aprilis 1615, Compa-  
reerden als voren *Philippe duterlieu* van Robey tryp-  
maker oud 27 jaren  $\frac{3}{4}$  ans wonende opt Wale pad by  
eede verklarende een Vrije persone te wezentereenre  
ende *Jaquemyne Noirett* van Ryssel oud 22 jaren 12 ans  
wonende als voren geassisteert mit *Arnould Noirett*  
ende *Barbe du Chesne* haee vader ende moeder torandre  
zyden.

w. g. Philippe du trieu  
is X

#### Translation:

"fo. 26. Copy Extract from the register of betrothals (D. T. & B. no 419). Appeared before the Commisaries of marriage matters April 11 1615 *Philippe duterlieu* born at Robey (Roubaix) trypeworker (dresser of plush or mock velvet) 27 years of age residing (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  year) on the Wale pad (Walloon Avenue) declaring by oath that he is a bachelor, on one side and *Jaquemyne Noirett* born at Ryssel (Lille) 22 years of age residing (about 12 years) as above mentioned (the same Avenue) assisted by her father, Arnould Noirett and her mother, Barbe du Chesne on the other side. (Signed as above.)

From Book of Baptisms of the Walloon church at Leiden:

Copy-Extract uit het Doopregister der Walekerk  
D. T. & B. no 130)

(1) *Le 3 Janvier 1616; Philipe filz de filipe du trieu et de Jacquemine sa femme. pour tesmoing Arnoult Noiret et Jasper du tricu et Jacquelainne Hiole.*



(2) *Ao. 1617 Merquerdy 5 dite (d'Avril) MARYE*, fille de Phelipe du Trieu et de Jacquemine Nouret; tesmoing François du Pire et Jacque Corteman; maryne (maraine) Jenne Touret (Nouret?).

(3) *Dimance 10, feburier 1619, Phlipe*, fils de Phlippe du trieux et de Jacquemine Noirez, tesmoins; Grigolle Swemelle et Thomas Mutau et Marynes (maraine—godmother) Anne de Swatripon et Sussenre St lonselle.

(4) *Dymanche 9, feburier 1620 Madeleine*, fille de Philippe du trieux et de Jaquemine Noirez; Tesmoins Symon Brocat et Melchior lescalie et Jenne et Isabeau Noirez

On August 15, 1617, Philippe Dutrieux and Jacquemine Noiret join the Walloon church at Leiden.

A translation of an Act of Betrothal from the same source dated 17 July, 1621, reads as follows: At this date "appeared before the Commissaries of matters concerning marriages Philippe Dutrieux of Robey, worsted dyer aged thirty four years and living in the Runt Streat, widower of Jacquemine Noiret, to Susanna du Chesne of Sedan aged twenty years orphan, assisted by Jean Pinson her cousin, living in the Bisschopstreat requesting their three Sunday proclamations."

Philippe Dutrieux  
H D

On March 9, 1624, Philippe Dutrieux received from the church at Leiden a certificate of transfer which was given him by that church as he was "pour Westinde." This places him and his family among the Walloons who came to America in the ship Nieuw Amsterdam in 1624 and among the little band who can claim to be the first real settlers of New Netherland.

Philippe Dutrieux and his second wife, Susanna Du Chesne, had several children born in this country, from whom the Wendells, De Forests, etc., are descended. It may be noticed that the name of Philippe's second wife and that of the mother of his first wife is the same, so his wives may have been related. On the Records of New Amsterdam in 1653 appears this item: "In the name of Philip D'Trys' widow



who says that her son Philip (who was also murdered) had earned 100 monthly wages which are still due him."

On May 22, 1640, Philippe Dutrieux, or "de Truy," as the Dutch called him, received a patent for land near Smith's Valley, Manhattan. At that time he was Court Messenger or Marshal in New Amsterdam, an office which drew two-thirds the salary of the magistrate. The situation of this land may be figured from the following extracts from descriptions of two lots leased April 19, 1638, on Manhattan—"South of the esplanade of the fort and East by *Philip de Truy*. . . . Begin at the kil where the Fresh Water (Collect Pond) empties into the East river to the land of Cornelius van Tienhoven, whose palisades reach from the long High-way to the East river, as may be seen by the marks put up by him bordering on the aforesaid land from the enclosure to the big tree *which is the mark of division between Philip de Truys' and Tienhoven's land*; the said Philip's palisades reaching from this tree N. E by E and E. N. e. between both to Bestevans' Copse etc" (Brodhead's Col. Doc., Vol. 14, pp. 6, 37.)

The Smith's Vly (Valley) is now Pearl Street.

#### 1638-1672.—Viele Records, Page 5

Real Estate Transactions concerning Cornelis Volkertszen, his wife, Marya Dutrieux, and their children. (Copied from papers in the New York County Clerk's Office.)

1643. Government Grants, 1642-1649, p. 128.—William Kieft, in behalf of the High and Mighty Lords, etc., grants to *Cornelis Volkertszen* "A double lot for two houses and two gardens lying on the Common Highway the breadth along said road is 9 rods and eight feet and below on the marsh of the same breadth; its length on the north side is 18 rods two feet 5 ins and on the S. side of the same length amounting to one hundred and eighty seven rods, eight feet and 5 ins. "subject to the Condition that Cornelis Volkertszen shall be a good citizen 'as in duty bound' and shall be subject to all burdens and imposts as the Noble Lords have already enacted or shall in the future enact." Dated 13th day of July, A. D. 1643.

On the same date was granted to Rutgert Arentsen Van



Seyl land bound westward by the land of *Cornelis Volkertsen*. (Ditto, p. 120.)

1644.—May 24, Philip Geraedy was granted land bound north by the land of *Cornelis Volkertsen*. (Ditto.)

1654.—October 23, Jan Peeck and Claes Hendryckse, carpenter, agree about the sale of a house. Said house at present occupied by Jan Peeck, situated on the "Groote Heere Wegh," is granted by Jan Peeck to Claes Hendryckse with the exception of the lot on the N. side of which is located the lot of Evert Pels, and on the S. side the lot of Jan Gerritsen, mason, in exchange for two houses at Fort Orange, belonging to Claes Hendryckse. Claes Hendryckse is also to pay 2000 Carolus guilders, 600 of which he will pay to *Isaac De Forest as guardian of the children of Jan Peeck's wife by a former marriage*. Wit. Isaack De Foreest and Andries Jochemsz." (Hol. Soc. Yr. Bk., 1900, pp. 175-6.)

1656.—March 16, Andries Jochemsz and Claes Hendrickse acknowledge to owe Gouvert Loockernans and *Isack de Foreest as guardians of children of Cornelis Volckersz decd.* 5100 Carolus guilders due from the sale of house bought by Claes Hendrickse of Jan Peeck, who married the widow of said Cornelis Volckersz. Mortgage their houses and lots at New Amsterdam on the East River between Willem Pietersz's and Arent Van Eerhaets' (?) occupied at present by Andries Jochemsz. October 20, 1669. The above mortgage was cancelled by order of Isaack Foreest. (Hol. Soc. Yr. Bk., 1900, p. 160.)

1656.—April 29th, there came before the Schepen in New Amsterdam Jan Peeck, burgher, residing here, "who acknowledged that he sells to Jan Gerritsen, mason, a lot on the East side of the Great Highway between the lots belonging together on the East side to Gerrit Coerten and on the North side to Claes Hendrickse, carpenter, which he claims by virtue of a certain Patent dated July 13, 1643, unto *Cornelis Volkertsen*, deceased, whose surviving widow was legally married to Jan Peeck here. At Amsterdam in New Netherland." (Liber A, 1654-62, N. Y. Co. Conveyances, p. 18.)

1656.—On the same date the same Jan Peeck conveyed to Evert Pels "at present residing in the Colony of Renselaerwyck," a certain lot on the Great Highway between the lots



at present belonging on the North side to Gov. Stuyvasent and on the South side to Claes Hendricksen, carpenter, "upon which lot the aforesaid Evert Pels has built at present a house with the trees and all that is pinned to earth" to which he claims a right according to a Patent dated July 13, 1643, to *Cornelis Volkertszen*, deceased, whose surviving widow the said Jan Peeck has legally married. (Liber A, 1654-1662, p. 19.)

1656.—On the same date Jan Peeck conveyed to Claes Hendricksen, house carpenter and free trader, residing at Fort Orange, certain two houses one old and one new as the same are now standing and situate in this City aforesaid on the East Side of the Great Highway between the house and lot conveyed by Jan Peeck to Evert Pels on the North side and on the South to Jan Gerritsen, mason, together with the lots, gardens, trees, etc. This he also sells by *virtue of the deed dated July 13, 1643*, above mentioned. (Liber A, 1654-62, Conveyances, N. Y. Co., p. 20.)

1660.—February 25, Marya Peeck "in the absence of her husband" by virtue of a Deed dated January 10, 1658, sells her certain house and lot situate in the Smith's Valley with such passive and active obligation as she possessed in the same. This land was bounded on the West by the house and lot occupied by Louwerens Cornelis Van der Wels by the shore of the East River W. by the Maagde Paadje (Maiden Lane) and North by the pasture and lot of Oloff Stevenson Cortlant and surveyed by Jacque Corteljon, the sworn surveyor, on the 16th day of Jan'y 1660 according to an agreement before Notary Matheus De Vos and certain witnesses July 29, 1658. Signed Marya Peeck. (Liber A, p. 191, N. Y. Co. Conveyances.)

1660.—August 19, Marya Peeck again "In the absence of her husband" appears to sell another lot of land in Smith's Valley to Jan De Pre—but this instrument has no signatures. (Liber A, 1654-62, p. 215, N. Y. Co. Conveyances.)

(These two last items seem to refer to Marye's share in the estate of her father, Philippe Dutrieux.)

1661.—December 8, Thursday, at the City Hall (New Amsterdam) before the Board appeared Mary de Truy and with her Isaack de Foreest Old Schepen of this City and



Govert Loockermans also Old Schepen, guardians of her minor children. Said Mary de Truy requests permission to draw and receive the interest on 500 florins settled on her children and secured on the house of Andries Joghimsen. (Fernow, Min. of the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam, Vol. I, pp. 192-3.)

1667.—January 27, Dirck Jansz Van Deventer appeared before the Aldermen of the City of New York "in capacity as empowered by Mary Peeck, residing at New Albany, according to a power of Attorney thereof issued before the Court Messenger, Lodovicus Cobus . . . May 24th last . . . who declared that in that capacity he cedes . . . in . . . free ownership to . . . Jan Ariansen, ship-carpenter, a certain house and lot . . . with such passive and active obligations and rights . . . as Mary Peeck has possessed in the same, . . . Standing and situate north of the Smit's Valley bounded on the E. by a house and lot wherein Anna Listz lives, S. by the shore of the East River, W. and N. by a house and lot of Cornelis Jansz Clopper . . . according to a bill of sale made before Notary Matheus De Vos April 16, 1660." (Translation; Deeds Dutch and English, 1665-1672, N. Y. Co., p. 72.)

1672.—August 24, "Did Sybrant Jansz of this Citty, Carpenter, ffor a Certaine sume of monny to him in hand paid by Maria Treux, widdow of Jan Peecq, deceas<sup>d</sup>, transport and made over unto the sd Maria Treux a certaine lott of land w<sup>th</sup> a tenement and other buildings thereupon schituate lying and being w<sup>th</sup>in this Citty to the strand of the East River to the south of Highstreet, abutting with the east side upon the ground of Rem. Jansz Smith and with the west side uppon the ground of Cornelis Jansz Van Hooren, containing in breadth before on the street twentie ffoot, behind the lycke, in length on boath sydes ffifty ffoot, wood measure: which sd transport was signed by the sd Sybrant Jansz in the presence off the Alderm John Lawrence." (Deeds D. and E., 1665-72, N. Y. Co., p. 148.)

1672.—August 30, "was the house and lot abovementioned by Isacq ffoorest (as tutor and guardian of the children of Maria Treux by virtue of a morgage ffrom the sd Maria Treux upon the abovesd house to the use of her chil-



dren and the order of the Court thereupon) transported and made over unto Joris Jan Van Hooren, . . . signed by the sd ffoorest in the presence of Alderni Johannes De Pyster and Nicolaes Bayard, secretary." (Deeds D. and E., p. 148.)

1692.—Viele Records, Pages 22, 24

Arnoult Cor. Viele's claim to being the first white man on the Ohio River corroborated; Royal Grant of Dutchess County land, 1690, 1704.

In "Viele Records" (pp. 22-3) reference is made to the claim of Charles A. Hanna, in his "Wilderness Trail" (1911) that Arnoult Cornelisen Viele be regarded as the first white man to have traversed the Ohio Valley and that in the year 1692. This point was to have been exhaustively brought out in a monograph which was to have been written by one of his descendants, the late Mr. V. M. Porter, of Santa Barbara, Cal. Not long before his death, in 1914, Mr. Porter wrote me as follows: "There is a claim put forward by Prof. Clarence Alford in his work on the Virginia explorers (1912) that the first white men on the Ohio were Virginians, the date given being about twenty years prior to Arnoult's visit. I didn't get opportunity to examine the book until last month, in St. Louis. It is far from convincing I find. The only white man he mentions who could by any stretch of the imagination have gotten near the Ohio River was an ignorant lad of sixteen, who was supposed to have been carried there as a captive in the hands of Indians and who really had no idea *where* he was carried! I intend writing to Prof. Archer Hurlbert, former professor of history at Marietta College, now archivist at Harvard, who is considered the leading authority on Ohio Valley history, and ask him to give me his view on the conflicting claims."

In 1915 I wrote to Professor Hurlbert, who replied that although he had not looked into the matter thoroughly, he had "no doubt but that Mr. Hanna is correct in his statements. I remember his having told me years ago (when we were looking over his proofs) of the fact of Arnout Viele's visit to Ohio; *the claims of the prior Virginians are mythical compared with those cited for him.*"



Mr. Charles A. Hanna wrote me in 1912: "I trust that you may pursue the history of Arnout Viele further and give him the place in early Colonial history which he deserves."

Arnoult's name has been spelt in many ways, but from documents he is found to have been named for his great grandfather, Arnoult Noiret.

Concerning Royal Grant of Dutchess County land in 1704 to Arnoult Cor. Viele and Pieter Lassing.

On page 24 of Viele Records will be found a copy of the application in 1704 of Arnoult Cor. Viele and Pieter Lassing for a patent on a tract of land lying along Hudson's River south of the present City of Poughkeepsie and extending some distance inland, which land was given to Arnoult Cor. Viele by the Indians in 1680 and sold by him in 1690 to Pieter Lassing.

These two men—the owner and the former owner—united in asking for a patent, which was granted May 22, 1704. The wording of this patent, a copy of which I have seen, corresponds perfectly with the application. It speaks also of Arnoult Viele's long services to Governor Andros as mediator with the Indians, which "the records at Albany make appear." Pieter Lansing should, however, read Pieter Lassing. This name is written by his descendants Lossing. Benjamin J. Lossing, author of "Field Book of the Revolution" and other historical works, was one of these. Some of this land yet remains in the Lossing family.

#### 1709—Viele Records, Page 159

October 13th.

First land taken up by Louwis Pieterse Viele in Schaghticoke.

"Evert Bunker Mayor etc to Lowis Viele of Shinnechtady;—Land in City of Schaaktekook 15 morgans, bounded E and W by Schaakkook's creek, W by Creek called Tamhenick's Kill, S by lot of Johannis Vischer; and also 5 morgans bound W by Tanhanick's Kill E by 5 morgans belonging to Johannis Hermense Vischer and also 10 morgans bounded W by hofstead of Johannis Hermense Vischer N by Mudder Kill, E by a ridge





FRERE HOUSE, NEW PALTZ, N. Y.

Last house on Huguenot Street



an. runs back southward between said ridge and the hofstead till it takes in 10 morgans.

his

(signed) Evert Bancker, Lowis V Viele."

mark

(seal.) (Albany Co. Deeds, Book 5, p. 169.)

Many of the old Schaghticoke deeds refer to the land of Lowis Viele and Lewis's Creek is often mentioned—sometimes as—"Lewis's Killtje." The following action of the Albany Board seems to bear out the impression that this stream was called after the only early settler named Lowis—Lowis Viele.

In 1734-5 the Albany Board writes to Lewis Viele and his son Peter Viele: "Gentlemen; according to your request we have laid before the Common Council your grievance threatened by the Indians and it is resolved by this Board that whenever those Indians, which make pretensions on Lewis's Creek, return from their hunting you should desire them to come here and if their pretensions are good we will make them satisfaction." (Mun. Annals, Vol. 10, p. 55.)

1709—Signature of Marie Frere, wife of Lowis Viele, on agreement of the children of Hugo Frere, the New Paltz Patentee, to sell their father's house to their brother Jean.

Agreement (copied from original in possession of compiler):  
 "Nous avont vendid a nostre frere  
 Jean La maison de mon paire  
 septente poise de huit done; nous lui avont Linve Le catorse  
 ieme innt

H frere

Abraham frere

Marie frere

Jacob frere

Sara frere

moi Jean frere soujine

e confes le marce."

On the back is written: "Van Wegen het Huys van de overlede Hugo Frere aan Jan Frere verkocht."

Translation—"We have sold to our brother Jean the house of my father; seventy pieces of eight given; we have delivered



to him the 14th of January, 1709." (On the back)—"Concerning the House of the deceased Hugo Frere sold to Jan Frere." A "piece of eight" was received currency in the Colony.

This paper had from Ralph LeFevre of New Paltz in 1910, was accompanied by his sworn statement as to its genuineness. He had come into possession of a number of Frere documents (see LeFevre's His. of New Paltz).

1734—Viele Records, Page 178

Bond of Margrieta Rinckhout Fort which establishes her sister Elizabeth Rinckhout Toll as the daughter of Jan Rinckhout:

"Know all men by these Presents that We, Margrieta Fort, widow of John Fort deceased and John Fort their eldest son of the County of Albany and Province of New York, yeoman, are Held and Firmly bound unto Abraham Fort his certain Att'y, Executors, Administrers or Assigns to the which Payment well and Truly to be Made and Done,—We do bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors and Admrs and Every of them Joyntly and Severally—Firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals and Dated the Nineteenth day of October in the Eight year of his Majesties Reign Annoq Dom—One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty and four. The Condition of this Obligation is such, Whereas Geertruy Groot, widow of Simon Groot, deceased and the above-named Margrieta Fort Heirs to their father Jan Rinckhout deceased and to their brother Jurrian Rinckhout deceased have now prepared a bill to be filed against Karel Hansen Toll and Elizabeth his wife, in the Court of Exchequer at New York in order to be subpeaned to give their true information upon oath relating to a Clear Land as also to a Parcill of Wood Land adjoyning thereto at Malwyck in the County of Albany belonging to the said *Geertruy, Margrieta and Elizabeth their sister* now in possession of the said Karel Hansen; NOW it is Agreed that when the said Geertruy and Margrieta shall by the sd Court or before any other Court within the Province of New



York wherein it can be Determined, Recover two third Part of the sd Several Parcills of Land or such Part as they by Agreement with the said Karel Hansen and Elizabeth his wife shall obtain from them, That then the said Margrieta Fort and John Fort Shall convey and make over to the said Abraham Fort his heirs and assigns a just one eighth part of such share as the sd Margrieta Shall recover or obtain as aforesaid. He paying from time to time Proportionable to the charges of the same. Then this obligation to be Void and of no Effect, Else to stand and remain in full Force and Virtue.

her  
 Margrieta X Fort seal  
 mark  
 his  
 John X Fort seal  
 mark

Sealed and delivered  
 By Margrieta Fort  
 By Jan Fort  
 In the presence of  
 Johs. Cuyler  
 Abraham Cuyler

Original in N. Y. State Library; presented by the compiler.

1767—Viele Records, Page 174

Gift of Land by Jacob Viele to the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Albany for the use of the Dutch church at Schaghticoke:

THIS INDENTURE made the fourth day of July Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven Between Jacob Viele of Shactekook in the County of Albany of the one part and the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church in the City of Albany of the other part,

WITNesseth that the said Jacob Viele for divers good causes and Considerations him thereunto moveing



but more especially for and in Consideration of five shillings Current money of New York to him in hand paid at and before the Ensealing and delivery thereof by the said Minister, Elders and Deacons, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath Given, Granted, Bargained and Sold and by these presents do Give, Grant, Bargain and sell unto the said Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the City of Albany (in their actual Possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and Sale to them thereof made for one whole year by Indenture bearing date the the Day next before the Day of the date of these Pres-ents and by force of the Statute for transferring of uses into Possession and to their successors and assigns forever all those two severall Pieces of Ground situate, lying and being at Shactekook the one Piece being sixty feet square Bounded to the East to the King's High-way and on the North the King's Highway and also another Piece to contain forty-two feet by thirty-six lying to the South therof and next adjoining thereto where the Foundation of the church is now laid with Liberty that the Doors may open to the South and also Liberty of Ingress Egress and Rgress from the High-way from the South side off and along said church to the said church door together with all and singular the Profits, Benefits, Privileges Liberties Hereditements and Apputencies unto the said two Lots of Ground belonging or in anywise appertaining and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents, Spues and Profits thereof and every part and Parcil therof with the appurtenances TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said two Pieces of Ground above mentioned and every part and parcil therof with there and every of the rights members and appurtenances unto the said Minister, Elders and Deacons of the R. P. D. Church in the City of Albany and their successors to the only proper use, benefit, and Behoof of the said Minister. Elders and Deacons of the R. P. D. Church of the city



of Albany and their successors and assigns forever. In witness thereof the said Jacob Viele has hereunto set his hand and seal the Day and Year first above written.

(signed) Yocob Viele  
sealed and delivered in the presence of us  
Lodewecus Viele  
John Knickerbacker Jr.

The Minister, Elders and Deacons of the R. P. D. Church in the City of Albany do by these presents transfer for the consideration of five shillings the full possession of the Ground mentioned in the above Indentures and the Building thereon erected with all uses, privileges and appurtenances to the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the R. P. D. Church at Schachtkook their successors and assigns, as by Law incorporated for their only proper use, benefit and behoof.

By Order of the Consistory, signed and sealed with the common seal of said church.

(Signed) E. Westerlo p.  
sealed and delivered in the presence of us  
D. Romeyn  
Det Prok (?)

This document is in the State Library at Albany; presented by the compiler to the State.

1791—Viele Records, Page 233

#### WILL OF CAPTAIN WILLEM WINNE.

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN. I, Willem Winne of the town of Schactekoke in the County of Albany, considering the uncertainty of this Mortal life, and being of sound and perfect mind and memory, blessed be the Almighty God for the same, do make, publish and declare this to be my last will and Testament in manner and form following, (that is to say) First, I will that first of all my Just debts and funeral charges be paid. I also will that if my loving wife,



Maritje should survive me, that all my Estate both real and personal that I may be possessed of at the time of my death, shall be at her disposal during her life-time, so far as to obtain her a decent and comfortable support, and to pay the debts she may at any time after my death have occasion to contract—Lastly I will that after mine and my wife's decease and after all our just debts be paid, that the remainder of my Estate both real and personal be divided in manner and form following (that is to say) To my daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of John Knickerbacker Jun'r. & her Heirs I give, devise and bequeath the one equal half or moiety thereof—To my grandson Gerrit Van Antwerp & his Heirs I give devise and Bequeath the one equal fourth part thereof and to my Grandson William Van Antwerp & his Heirs I give, devise and Bequeath the other remaining fourth part thereof—

And I do hereby constitute, make and ordain my loving wife, Maritje Executrix, and my son-in-law John Knickerbacker Jun'r and my friend William Winne Jun'r Executors of this my last will and Testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty second day of February in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one. (Signed) Wellem Wenne.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the within named William Winne as and for his last will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto set our names as witnesses in the presence of each other

Nicholas Marselis, Jellis Winne Jun'r, Jas Winne.

The original of this will was last year (1915) presented to the N. Y. State Library by the compiler.

Captain Willem Winne, father of Elizabeth Winne, wife of John Knickerbacker, Jr. was descended from Pieter Winne of Ghent sometimes called "Pieter de Vlamingh" (the Fleming) who was early a magistrate in Willemstadt and in 1689 Town Major (Commission dated March 24)—a position



which made him the head of a military Board, since even the captain of the fort took orders from him. (Report N. Y. State His., 1896-7, Vol. I, p. 398.) Willem Winne was in 1742 a Freeholder and merchant in Albany but he and his wife seem to have come to Schaghticoke to live with their daughter in their old age. They are both buried in the Knickerbacker graveyard at that place. In 1777 Willem Winne was Captain of a Company of Militia. (Robert's N. Y. in the Revolution, Vol. I, p. 107; Vol. II, p. 40.) In 1779 he was "Ouderling" in the Albany Dutch church. There is a crude picture of him in the dress of an Elder.

1820-1829—Viele Records, Pages 221, 222

Will of Abraham Viele and Codicil to same.

In the Name of God. Amen. I, Abraham Viele of Schaghticoke, in the County of Rensselaer, farmer, being of good health and perfect mind . . . ordain this my Last Will and Testament that is to say—(religious preamble)—I give, bequeath and devise as follows to wit . . . unto my son John the use and income of my farm and estate lying and being in the town of Saratoga in the County of Saratoga during his natural life and after his decease I give and bequeath the same to his son William should he arrive at the age of twenty one years or should he live to have heirs and in that case I give and devise the same unto him and his heirs forever. But should my grandson William die before either of the events above stated happen in that case I devise my farm and estate so as aforesaid lying etc . . . to my daughter Eve and her heirs and assigns forever. It is my will and I do so order it, that my son John shall not commit any waste or destruction nor shall he sell any of the wood or timber standing or growing on the farm abovementioned and in case he does so it shall be a forfeiture of his right under the devise above made to him.

I give and bequeath unto my grandson Abraham, son of William Knickerbacker, one good gold watch



to be paid for and given to him by my Executors out of the monies I have standing out at the time of my decease.

The remainder of all my estate both real and personal of whatsoever name and nature I give, bequeath and devise unto my daughter Eve and unto her heirs and assigns forever. It is also my will and I do hereby ordain that my beloved wife shall remain in the full possession of all my estate aforesaid both real and personal, during her widowhood and at her decease my property beforementioned to be disposed of as herein-before bequeathed and devised by me And I do hereby nominate and appoint my daughter Eve and my loving friends John Knickerbacker Junr and John W. Groesbeck to be my Executrix and Executors of this etc. . . . hereby revoke etc. . . . declare this to be my last Will and Testament made this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and twenty.

Abraham Viele L. S.

. . . In the presence of  
Rachel Knickerbacker  
Elizabeth Knickerbacker  
H. Knickerbacker.

#### Codicil.

Wheras I Abraham Viele of Schaghticoke have made my Last Will and Testament bearing date . . . February, one thousand, eight hundred and twenty and thereby devised the use of my farm lying in Saratoga to my son John during his natural life and after his decease to his son William should he live to arrive at the age of twenty one or to his lawful heirs and in case of failure of either then to my daughter Eve and her heirs . . . And wheras my son John has since married and in all human probability will have further issue Now I do by this my writing which I declare to be a codicil to my said will to be taken as part thereof that such other lawful heirs as my said son may have shall



share equal in all respects with my Grandson William in my Saratoga farm and it is my will that should the present wife of my son John survive him that she shall have the use of the farm at Saratoga in the same manner that I have given it to my said son, during the time she shall remain his widow and having issue living by him . . . Fifteenth of March one thousand, eight hundred and twenty one. (Signed by Abraham Viele and witnessed by the three persons who witnessed his will the year before.)

In 1829 Eve Knickerbacker took out Letters Testamentary; Will recorded August 31, 1829, before the Surrogate of Rensselaer County, who was Philip Viele, son of Abraham Ludovicus Viele of Saratoga Co., N. Y.

### Additions to Viele Records

#### I—(Page 92)

The name of Suster, wife of Cornelis Cornelisen Viele of Schenectady was Suster Bous (Bouts). She was without doubt the daughter of Hendrick Lambertse Bout, alias Sassian. Bout settled early in Schenectady upon land called Poversens Landeryn lying mainly upon the first lock west of the city. Part of this land he sold 27 September, 1692, to Douve Aukes for 60 beaver at 8 guilders each "*for his son Cornelis Viele and removed to Claverack.*"

On the 14th of February, 1703-4, Aukes transferred this land to Cornelis Viele and the same day Jan Bout, son of Hendrick Lambertsen Bout confirmed the same to Aukes. The island called Sassians also came into the possession of the Viele family who long owned it and gave it their name.

On 28 July, 1700, Suster, daughter of Cornelis Viele and Debora Van Petten was baptized in Schenectady and her sponsors were Douve Aukes and Suster Bous.

This can be no other than the mother of Cornelis Viele and it appears probable that Suster Bous (Bouts) married Douve Aukes after the death of Cor. Cor. Viele. This would make it perfectly natural that Douve Aukes should have made Cor-



nelis Viele his heir. The break in the records would account for the marriage not being noted. In 1697 Douve Aukes is recorded as being the head of a family in Schenectady in which there were two adult women. Douve Aukes continually in legal papers calls Cornelis Viele his son and it would appear likely that when Douve Aukes took over the Viele Inn corner of Mill and State Streets in Schenectady he married the widow as well as adopted the son of Cornelis Cornelisen Viele.

The discovery of Suster Bous' (Bouts) family name does away with the theory that she was "possibly of Indian blood." The first wife of Douve Aukes was Maria Arnoutse Viele, his adopted son was the cousin of his first wife and his second wife her aunt by marriage. (See History of the Schenectady Patent and Schenectady Church Records.)

## II—(Page 172)

Copy of a page from Isaac Fort's Dutch Bible:

"I Isaac Fort am married to Jamima Viely  
By in the year of our lord 1729 September 18th.

My Daughter Margret Fort is born Dec 14th 1733.

My son John is born the 24th of August in the year of our lord 1736.

My Daughter Mariah fort is Born the 6th of April 1739."

This Bible is owned by Miss F. E. Ackert of Valley Falls, N. Y., who writes:—"Maria Fort's Bible . . . is not in very good shape; many leaves are gone;—the front part is entirely gone. The New Testament was printed in 1665. I have a Dutch Psalm book which she used to sing from, even during my grandfather Ackert's boyhood. She was a member of his family. She used to be visited yearly by some Indians when they returned to visit their burial grounds (at Schaghticoke). When a child her playmates were Indians and she could speak their language." (Dated 5-8-15.)

Miss Ackert is a descendant of Isaac Fort and Jamima Viele, through Maria who married Petrus Benneway (Bennoit). Isaac Fort was the youngest of the six sons of John Fort (Jean La Ford), he with his brothers Abraham and Jacob settled at Schaghticoke. Jamima (Jacomintje) Viele was the eldest daugh-



ter of Lewis Viele and his Huguenot wife, Marie Frere. Her younger brothers, Abraham Viele and Jacob Viele, married the first Francintje Fort and the last Eva Fort, the two daughters of Abraham Fort, her husband's brother.

Another of the six Fort brothers, Daniel "of the Half Moon," had a son Isaac who married Sara, daughter of Peter Louise Viele "of Stillwater," in 1751. He was a nephew of the Isaac Fort who married Jamima Viele. Isaac Fort and Sara Viele had a farm of 400 acres at South Cambridge, N. Y. A part of their homestead was still standing in 1915.

### III—(Page 115).

Proof that Rachel Freer was the first wife of Cornelius Viele of Poughkeepsie.

In 1795 (March 25) one John Yerry and wife sell land at that place which John's parents bought in 1770 of the heirs of Simon Freer of Dutchess Co. The deed contained this item:—"Whereas Simon Freer, Peter Low and Mary his wife, Peter Freer, Peter Leroy and Deborah his wife, Cornelius Viele and his son Peter Viele, eldest son and heir-at-law of *Rachel, deceased daughter of Simon Freer deceased and late wife of Cornelius Viele*, Peter Van Kleeck and Annetje his wife, John Freer, Johannes Terpenning and Jenneke his wife, Jacobus Freer and Nathan Freer did by indenture bearing date May 30, 1770 grant, bargain and sell unto Michel Yerry and Elizabeth his wife a certain piece of land in the town of Poughkeepsie containing 40 acres of land etc." (Deeds in Poughkeepsie Court House Vol. 13, p. 288.)

### IV—(Page 116)

Extracts from Dutch Bible which belonged to Jeremiah Du bois of Dutchess Co., N. Y. now in the possession of his descendant, Dr. Theodore Du Bois of Poughkeepsie:

"22 June—ket jaar onk heere 1741  
 bin yck Jeremia Du bois bin yck  
 ——nt mit Rachel Vile.  
 ——mert es geboren myn zoon Joel Du bois



6 en october 1745 geboren Jeremea Du bois,  
 De 12 December 1747 geboren benjemen Du bois,  
 28 Jany 1749 geboren Annatie Dubois,  
 28 Augustus 1751 geboren Mahthus Du bois  
 17 november 1753 myn soon piter Veile Du bois  
 8 februare 1755 geboren gidean Du bois  
 24 feberuare 1757 geboren sair (Sara) Du bois,  
 31 mert geboren 1759 Eleas Du bois.

---

August 23, 1762 Joel Du bois to Mary Hoghtalind  
 January 14, 1763 John Dubois my son,  
 October 4, 1764 Jeremiah my son,  
 July 18, 1766 my dater Sary Du bois"

---

Other data in Bible in different handwriting:

"the year 15 March is born my mother Rachel Du bois 1722.  
 1796 may the 12 there expired Jeremiah Du bois Senr and  
 was then interred the fourteenth and Eaged 70 years.

1798. March 1, then expired Rachel Du bois and was Buried  
 march the 2 and was in age 76 years.

Benjame Du bois departed this life March 2d and was Enterd  
 in the silent Tomb March 4 in the year of our Lord 1818; Be-  
 ing Aged seventy years two Monts and eighteen Days.

Matthew Dubois Died March 23rd and was buried March  
 25d Anno 1777."

(Copied by Miss Helen Kenyon of Poughkeepsie, who writes:

"The page is literally falling to pieces, I have copied what I could  
 read. Dr. Dubois says there were other records, so his father  
 told him, but they were cut out a long while ago.")

In Viele Records, p. 117, note that Jeremiah Dubois was the  
 son of Mathew Dubois and Sara, daughter of Mathys (not  
 Tjerck) Van Keuren, and Taatye De Witt m. Jan'y 17, 1697,  
 at Kingston, N. Y.



## V.

## Recent Viele Marriages and Deaths.

*Married.*

1913, December 27th, in the church of Notre Dame de Grace, Passy (Paris, France), Marie Antoinette Vielé-Griffin, second daughter of Francis Vielé-Griffin and Marie Louise Brocklè de Grangeneuve, to Comte Jehan du Mas de Paysac, son of Marquis Emeric du Mas de Paysac.

1914, June 17, in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Marjory Bruce, daughter of Henry Clarence Stuart and Serene De Garmo, to Charles E. Hughes, Junior.

1914, June 24th, at Salt Lake City, Kean Miller, son of Lee Charles Miller and Minnie Williams Viele, to Helen Virginia Wilson.

1914, November, in New York City, Walter S. Viele, son of Stephen L. Viele and Annie Matilda Barker, to Cynthia Kearney.

1915, June 24th, at Salt Lake City, Bonnie Miller, daughter of Lee Charles Miller and Minnie Williams Viele, to Lieut. Charles M. Walson, Medical Corps United States Army.

*Golden Wedding.*

1913, June 18th, Abraham Viele and Cornelia K. Williams, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

*Died.*

1913, April, Kenyon Viele, son of Dr. Augustus Viele and Mary Kenyon.

1915, April 10th, Maurice Augustus Viele, eldest son of Augustus Hamilton Viele and Mary Stuart, in New York City.

1915, May 26th, Mary Elizabeth Viele, wife of Judge Oscar Duff Kirk, in Wichita, Kansas; buried at Saratoga, N. Y.

1915, Anne Gaskings, wife of Sylvester Dennison Viele; Ada Livinia Viele, wife of Pressley J. Barr and daughter of the above; both in California.

1916, May 12th, Sheldon Thompson Viele, son of Henry Knickerbacker Viele and Laetitia Thompson at Buffalo, N. Y.



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